DEKALB
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OBITUARIES

DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

These obituaries were extracted from

THE EVENING STAR, Auburn, Indiana

Patricia Watson Dyson

On behalf of the Dekalb County
Genealogy Society, Auburn, Indiana

2008

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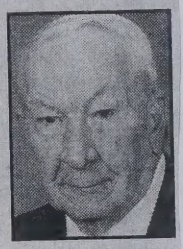
These obituaries are from THE EVENING STAR, Auburn, Indiana.
I cut and pasted these on pages and compiled a index. I have made every
Effort for accuracy and do apologize for any errors or omissions.
These Obituaries are of Dekalb County and Dekalb County connections.
Patricia Watson Dyson

Paul Kitchen

BUTLER — Paul E. Kitchen, 83, of Butler died Monday, Dec. 31, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

Mr. Kitchen was a retired farmer and was a delivery and route salesman for Garns and McConnell Food Services. He was a 63-year member of the Knights of Pythias, receiving the highest honor of Golden Spur Award and Pythias Father of the Year. He also was a 50-year member of the Farm Bureau. He graduated from St. Joe High School in 1942.



Mr. Kitchen

He was born Nov. 22, 1924, in Hudson to Frank and Iva (Sarber) Kitchen.

He married Ina R. Norrick in St. Joe on May 24, 1924, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law Roger and Judy Kitchen of Hamilton, Ronald and Deb Kitchen of Mathews, N.C., Rick and Deb Kitchen of Nashville, Tenn., and Rodney and Kelley Kitchen of Auburn; seven grandchildren, Drew Kitchen, Abby Relue, Cory Kitchen, Brennen Kitchen, Ashley Kitchen, Sierra Kitchen and Colten Kitchen; and four great-grandchildren, Karsyn Kitchen, Kendal Kitchen, Evie Relue and Jayci Kitchen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Gerald, and two sisters, Gertrude Kitchen and Marguerite Jarret.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Butler, with Pastor Steve Burris officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home, with a Knights of Pythias service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to DeKalb Hospice or the Knights of Pythias.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

June Koppert

ST. JOE — June E. Koppert, 71, of St. Joe died at 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec, 29, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was retired from Jeep Corp. in Toledo, Ohio. She graduated from Whitmer High School in Toledo in 1954. She enjoyed spending time with her family.

She was born July 26, 1936, in Toledo to Walter and Hazel (Miller) Conn.

Survived are two daughters and a son-in-law, Lou Ann and Dave Case of St. Joe and Sharon Snyder of Toledo; two sons Barry Koppert and Robert Koppert, both of Toledo; her grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and a brother, Robert Conn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Gerald Conn; and a sister, Carol Osenbaugh.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville, Ohio. Burial will be at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park in Ottawa Hills, Ohio.

Calling will be Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Judith Colandino

GARRETT — Judith A. "Judy" (Stock) Colandino, 68, of Garrett died Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Colandino

Born in Indianapolis, she was a cake decorator at Kroger in Auburn for nine years and was a Mary Kay consultant.

She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, American Legion Post 178, Eagles 1357, Elks 1447, Moose Lodge 566 and the Red Hat Society of Garrett and was secretary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1892.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda M. Minnich of Burleson, Texas; two stepdaughters, Anna Marie Stewart of El Paso, Texas, and Tina Louise Harris of Dallas, Texas; two sons, Bill W. Minnich of Wolf Lake and John W. Minnich of Avilla; three brothers, James W. Stock and John F. Stock, both of Angola, and Jeffrey L. Stock of South Carolina; and a sister, Jamiee K. Kryling of Troy, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph A. Colandino, and a son, Wade C. Minnich, who died in 1990.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 7 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor John Scott officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn at a later date.

Calling will be Saturday from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Allen County Cancer Society, St. Jude Children's Hospital or a charity of the donor's choice.

Allen Kurtz

AUBURN — Allen L. Kurtz, 64, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008.

Mr. Kurtz was the payroll manager at ANR for 27 years, retiring in 2006. He served in the U.S. Air Force.

Born Aug. 15, 1942, in Fort Wayne, he was the son of the late Helen W. (Linnemeir) and John W. Kurtz.

Surviving are his wife, Sally (Lincoln) Kurtz; two daughters and sons-in-law, Amy and Jim Wensits and Leslie and Sean Hofherr; a brother and sister-in-law, John and June Kurtz Jr.; a sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Wayne Henry; a sister-in-law, Betty Kurtz; and four grandchildren, Derrick and Allison Wensits and Alec and Madison Hofherr.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Norma Zahm and Mary Davis, and a brother, Donald Kurtz.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at C.M. Sloan & Sons Funeral Home, 1327 Wells St., Fort Wayne, with Pastor Dunbar officiating.

Calling also from Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Lung Association.

THE EVENING STAR
January 4 2008 Auburn, Indiana

James Wheeler

FREMONT — James Gene Wheeler, 47, of Fremont died at home on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, after a short illness.

Mr. Wheeler spent 10 years in Texas working in construction. He helped build many high-rise structures. In the 1980s he returned to Michigan and worked in construction for a few more years before retiring. He also worked at the Auburn Foundry in Auburn and General Aluminum in Fremont.

Mr. Wheeler enjoyed fishing and watching sports with his brother, Larry.

He was born Dec. 14, 1960, in Coldwater, Mich., to Guy and Wilma (Goshorn) Wheeler. They survive.

Also surviving are three brothers and sisters-in-law, Guy Fred and Linda Wheeler Jr. of Coldwater, Larry and Ali Wheeler of Fremont and Michael and MartyJo Wheeler of Montgomery, Mich.; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Joann Wheeler of Bronson, Mich., and Mary Ann and Dan Haaser of Angola; 10 nieces and nephews and two great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Hubert Wheeler and Iantha (Wheeler) McDonald; and his maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Bernice Goshorn.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Gillespie Funeral Home, Coldwater. Burial will be at East Gilead Cemetery in Branch County, Mich.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Visit www.gillespiefh.com to leave a message or condolences to the family.

Ann Antrup

AUBURN — Ann B. Antrup, 83, of Auburn died Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Antrup had worked at Souders in Auburn and McCray Memorial Hospital in Kendallville.

She had resided in the Kendallville and Auburn areas most of her life. She was a member of the Eagles Lodge in Butler.

She was born Dec. 1, 1924, in Corunna to William and Nora (Morrison) Kessler. Both preceded her in death. She married George Antrup in LaGrange. He died in 2003.

She is survived by two sons, Robert and Richard Antrup, both of Auburn; a daughter, Lou Ann Antrup of Auburn; 14 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; a brother, D. Richard Kessler of Washington; and a sister, Helen Carpenter of Bowling Green, Ohio.

She was also preceded in death by a son, James Antrup; a daughter, Virginia Stanley; three brothers, Willis Kessler, Marion Kessler and Robert Kessler; and a sister, Mary Ellen Kessler.

Services will be Monday at 1:30 p.m. at Young Family Funeral Home in Kendallville, with the Rev. Ray Warner officiating. Burial will take place in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be held two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent to www.youngfamilyfuneral-home.com.

Lewis Gump

BUTLER — Lewis R. Gump, 76, of Butler died Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Gump retired from Universal Tool as a tool and die maker in 1990, after 29 years of service. He also owned Gump Snow Removal and was a painter.

He was born Jan. 6, 1931, in Waterloo to Roy and Lavina (Lockwood) Gump. He married Joyce Miller on April 12, 1952, in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Larry Gump, and Ricky and Sherry Gump, all of Butler; two sisters, Ruth Hall of Fort Wayne, and Deloris Reese of Auburn; five grandchildren, Nina Evanoff of Butler, Tracey Gump of Ashley, Susan Shuman of Moscow, Idaho, and Justin and Seth Gump of Butler; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Cathy Ellen; and three sisters, Lorene Woodcock, Dorothy Wilcox and Orlena Saunders.

Graveside services will be Monday at 10 a.m. at Butler Cemetery with the Rev. Paul Patton officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler.

Sandra Taylor

GARRETT — Sandra J. Taylor, 62, died Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, at her home in Garrett with her family, friends and beloved pets by her side.

She worked as a janitor for Magnavox in Fort Wayne for 25 years, and she loved to gamble.

Ms. Taylor

She was born Jan. 30, 1945, in Auburn to Estil E. and Thelma (Easterday) Taylor. Her father survives in Auburn, and her mother preceded her in death.

Surviving are her life partner, Sammy C. Simmons of Garrett; a daughter, Tasha A. Simmons of Garrett; a brother and sister-in-law, Denny L. and Nancy Taylor of Mount Rest, S.C.; two nephews, Chad L. Taylor and Todd A. Taylor and his wife, Melanie; a great-nephew, Tyson Taylor, and a great-niece, Jaylynn Taylor.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 Center St., Auburn. Father Rick Leone will officiate.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

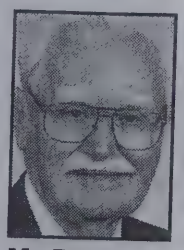
Memorials are to her family.

Lynn Dunn

AUBURN — Lynn W. Dunn, 90, of Auburn died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Dunn was a locomotive engineer for the B&O and CSX railroads for 39 years, retiring in May 1981.

He was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather whose occupation as a railroad engineer was his passion. A great gardener, he loved the outdoors and enjoyed traveling.



Mr. Dunn

He was a member of the United Transportation Union for more than 50 years and was a 60-year member of the Knights of Pythias and a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn.

He was born April 7, 1917, in Waterloo to John H. and Lida C. (Johnson) Dunn.

He married Virginia (Waite) Dunn on July 1, 1938, in Detroit. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Gary M. and Susan Dunn and Richard C. and Shirley Dunn, all of Auburn; one daughter and son-in-law, Lynda D. and Guy Lane Smith of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren, Brian Smith and his wife, Janelle, Daniel Smith, Gregory Smith, Ryan Dunn and Laura Dunn; and one great-granddaughter, Victoria Smith.

He was preceded in death by one great-grandson, Tyler Smith, and a sister, Helen E. Strock.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dale Williams and the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home, where a Knights of Pythias service wlll be Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the First United Methodist Church of Auburn.

James Strombeck

VENICE, Fla. — James Richard Strombeck, 83, of Venice, Fla., died Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at the Englewood Hospital in Englewood, Fla.

Mr. Strombeck had been a real estate broker in the DeKalb-Allen County area for many years and had farmed in DeKalb County before retiring in Florida.

He was involved in basketball at Spencerville High School and also in leagues as an adult. He also played softball, bowled on leagues in Auburn and coached little league. He loved to fish for walleye and northern pike in the lakes of Ontario.

He was born May 14, 1924, in Fort Wayne to John Otto and Elizabeth (Buelow) Strombeck.

Surviving are two daughters, Claudia Winn of Auburn and Kay Brown of Billings, Mont.; one son, Kyle of St. Joe; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and two former wives, Lois Collins of Auburn and Jeannine Strombeck of Venice.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Kenneth, Paul, Herbert and John; and three sisters, Jeanne Etzler, Hilda Lamie and Catherine Kramer.

A memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

Memorials are to the church.

Lemon Bay Funeral Home, Venice Chapel, is handling arrangements.

James Wheeler

FREMONT — James Gene Wheeler, 47, of Fremont, died at his home Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, after a short illness.

Mr. Wheeler spent 10 years in Texas working in construction. He helped build many high-rises. In the mid 1980s he returned to Michigan and worked in construction for a few more years before retiring. He also worked at the Auburn Foundry and at General Aluminum in Fremont. He loved to go fishing and watch sports with his brother, Larry.

He was born Dec. 14, 1960, in Coldwater, Mich., to Guy and Wilma (Goshorn) Wheeler. They survive in Coldwater.

Also surviving are three brothers and sisters-in-law, Guy Fred Jr. and Linda Wheeler of Coldwater, Mich., Larry and Ali Wheeler of Fremont and Michael and MartyJo Wheeler of Montgomery, Mich.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Joann Wheeler of Bronson, Mich., and Mary Ann and Dan Haaser of Angola; 10 nieces and nephews and 12 great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Hubert Wheeler and Iantha (Wheeler) McDonald, and his maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Bernice Goshorn.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. at Gillespie Funeral Home in Coldwater, Mich. Burial will be at East Gilead Cemetery in Branch County, Mich.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

To leave a message or condolences to the family, visit www.gillespiefh.com.

THE EVENING STAR
January 6 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Family remembers 'brilliant,' loving, spiritual Dean Mayer

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

SNOW LAKE — Steven Mayer said his father, Dean Mayer, always tried to provide lessons to his five children, but didn't stop with just showing or telling them what to do.

"He taught us a lot, but he also lived what he taught," Mayer said.

Dean Mayer passed away Nov. 25, 2007, in Angola. He had lived at Snow Lake in Fremont since 1987, along with his wife of 56 years, Marjorie.

While he worked as an engineer in Alliance, Ohio, for 36 years as a research specialist. Mayer's passion, his son said, was working with younger people in the Boy Scouts. He earned the Lexington Ruritan Outstanding Scoutmaster Award in 1972.

"It was very important to him," Steven said. "He was a Boy Scout himself, until he was called into the Army. He had three sons become Eagle Scouts. He thought it was very important because it taught a lot of good moral values and a lot of good skills."

Marjorie Mayer said she and her husband were involved with Scouting even before they had children.

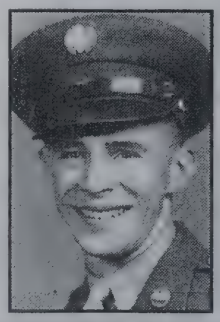
"He served on the committee that helped run the Scouts, and we would take boys to the camp every year," she said. "He was quite dedicated to the Scouts, he really believed in it."

Steven Mayer said his father would go the extra mile for his troop.

"He would go out on overnight camps with us in sub-zero weather, with no heater or heated tent or anything like that. A lot of fathers 10 years younger would say 'no way.'"

Dean Mayer actually had fought cold before. During his time in the service in Europe during World War II, he suffered frostbite in both feet after being pinned down in a foxhole under enemy fire. He was awarded two Bronze Stars, a combat infantry medal, a sharpshooter's medal and multiple theater medals. He was active in several veterans organizations, including both the Angola Legion, where he served as a member of the honor guard, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he served on a scholarship committee.

Though he lived with the disability all of his life, he didn't let it affect what he did, his son said. He continued to hike, ride snowmobiles and participate in other activities until just before his death.



Mr. Mayer earned medals in World War II.

"There wasn't much he was afraid to do," Steven Mayer said.

Mayer developed several patents for the Babcock and Wilcox Research Center in Alliance, where he worked.

"He helped to make their products more efficient," Steven said. He described his father as "brilliant," when it came to science.

"You could ask him virtually anything in the sciences and he'd know it off hand," he said.

It was at home though, that Dean and Marjorie made the biggest impression, Steven said.

"They showed us what a warm, loving family should be," he said. "They taught us how good a family could be."

This extended as his children grew up, Steven said.

"My brothers, my sister and I have all shown the lessons he taught us by the way we've been able to succeed in our lives. He also prided himself on the fact that his kids and grandchildren got along and did things together."

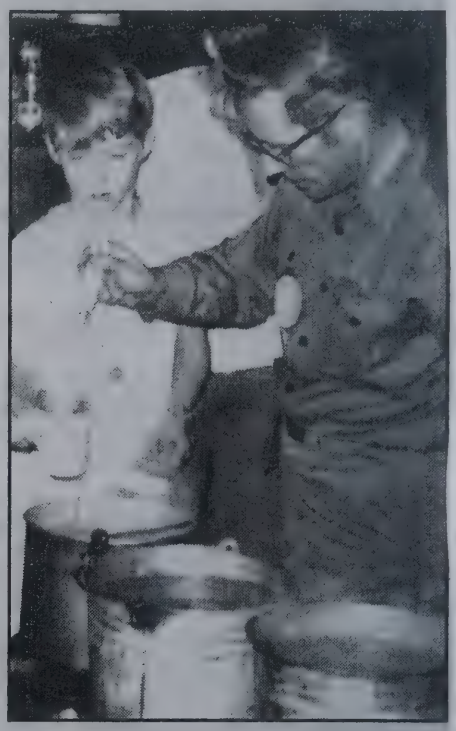


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mr. Mayer received an award as an outstanding Scoutmaster in 1972.

Marjorie said that part came naturally.

"We loved each other, and that extended to the children, and it's good that they were able to see that," she said. "We met after he graduated from college through mutual friends. It didn't take us long to realize we belonged together."

Mayer's faith was an incredibly important part of his life, Marjorie said. "It was very important. We rarely missed going to church on Sunday."

Dean Mayer also served as a chaplain for both the Legion and VFW chapters, she said.

"He lived his life the way Christ would have wanted him to," Steven said.

Jack Kelham

AUBURN — Jack E. Kelham, 73, of Auburn died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, in his home.

Mr. Kelham

He was manager of LaOtto Feed and Grain and retired from Foamex in Auburn as a millwright. He was a member of the Garrett Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Kelham was born July 5, 1934, to Joseph S. and Jeanette (Saylor) Kelham on a southwestern DeKalb County farm.

He was a 1952 graduate of Huntertown High School and attended Michigan State University on a basketball scholarship.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Bonnie (Forrest) Kelham.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Sandy Kelham of Columbia City and Susan and Michael Williams of Leo; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Bret Kelham and Brian Kelham, both of Butler, and Benjamin and Julie Kelham of LaOtto; one brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Sue Kelham of Garrett; one sister and brother-in-law, Jennie and John DePaolo of Garrett; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Brad A. Kelham, and a sister, Patricia Kendig.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Kathy Thompson officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Kaleb Kelham Muscular Dystrophy Fund in care of Garrett State Bank and to Altarstar United Methodist Church.

Alice Porter

GARRETT — Alice J. Porter, 86, of Garrett died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

She worked for Hubbard Spool Co. in Garrett for several years, retiring in 1983.

She was born Nov. 8, 1921, in Auburn, to Charles Emerson and Edna Daisy (Peckhart) Refner.

Surviving are two sons, Jackie Porter of Butler and Alfred Porter of Corunna; two brothers, Jack Refner of Ashley and Larry Refner of Waterloo; nine grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; several stepgreat-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a longtime companion, Robert W. Brown; a brother, Charles "Brick" Refner; and five sisters, Mary Webb, Edith McNamara, Dorothy Watkins, Bonnie Sharp and Angeline "Angie" Smith.

Private family services will be Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

There will be no public calling.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Beverly Blood

WARSAW — Beverly Ann Blood, 76, of Warsaw died at 11:50 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at Grace Village Rehabilitation at Winona Lake.

Mrs. Blood was a former resident of Kendallville, Muncie and Valparaiso.

She had retired as the school psychologist at the Warsaw Community School System.

Mrs. Blood had a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate in education from Ball State University.

She was born Dec. 4, 1931, in DeKalb County to Marlton and Daisy (Tritch) Schumaker.

Surviving are her husband of 16 years, Robert Blakeley of Warsaw; two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Robert Turnbull of Fort Wayne and Annice and Ron Casey of Lafayette; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Rex and Lori Church of Muncie and Max Church of Indianapolis; a stepdaughter, Melissa Culbertson of LaPorte; a sister, Jean Reinoehl; a brother, Heber Shumaker; an ex-husband, Jay Church of Munice; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a husband, Kenn Blood in 1978; a sister; and four brothers.

Private services will be at McHatton-Sadler Funeral Home in Warsaw.

Memorials are to Kosciusko Home Healthcare & Hospice, 920 Provident Drive, Warsaw, IN 46580 or Grace Village Rehabilitation, 337 Grace Village Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590.

Kimberly Patches

CROMWELL — Kimberly Sue (Woodworth) Patches, 48, died at 9:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at her home in Cromwell.

She moved to the area nine years ago from Columbus, Ohio. She had served as the park assistant at Shady Acres Mobile Home Park in Cromwell for a year and a half.

She enjoyed crocheting, dancing, reading and listening to music. She collected dream catchers and cookbooks. Her greatest joy was being with her grandchildren. She was known as being a very laid-back person.

She was born Nov. 8, 1959, in Columbus, Ohio, to Ronald Lee Woodworth Sr. and Sonja (Spencer) Colden. Her father is deceased and her mother and stepfather, Sonja and Rudy Colden, survive in Cromwell.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jess Willard and Shena Collins of Cromwell; four daughters and a son-in-law, Misty Leah-Rae and Larry Bentley of Topeka, Mindi Marie Collins and her boyfriend, Cecil Jenkins, of Waverly, Ohio, and Jacklyn Ann Dingess and Alicia Ann Collins, both of Riverhead, N.Y.; two special boys in her life, Tyler and Cody Feightner; 22 grandchildren; two brothers, Ronald Lee Woodworth Jr. of Ontario, Canada, and David Kelly Woodworth of Cromwell; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Kerri Kay and Bryan Bell of Corunna and Kristi Gay and Ronald L. Peak of Wawaka; and her maternal grandmother, Virginia Spellman of Albion.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, 771 Trail Ridge Road.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday prior to the service.

Memorials are to the family.

To send online condolences or to sign an online register, go to brazzellfuneralhome.com.

Janice Ayers

BUTLER — Janice Faye Ayers, 58, of Butler died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born Oct. 7, 1949, in Winston-Salem, N.C., to Thomas and Esther (Parnell) Blackmon.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Douglas L. and Patricia Ayers of St. Joe and Preston Ayers of Butler; three grandchildren, Crystal Chapman of Spencerville, Jason Ayers of St. Joe and Joseph Short, stationed in the U.S. Marine Corps; four brothers, Thomas Blackmon Jr., Joe Blackmon, James Blackmon and John Blackmon, all of Virginia; and a sister, Mary Jeffries of Florida.

Burial and services will be in Virginia at a later date.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, is handling arrangements.

Rena Barger

BUTLER — Rena O. Barger, 68, of Butler died Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was retired from U.S. Shoe Factory in Crothersville and was a member of Grace Covenant Church of God in Austin.

She was born Sept. 12, 1939, in Shreveport, Ind., to Ernest and Bonnie (Dunn) Norris. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are one son, Linton Barger Jr. of Butler; three daughters, Pam Proctor of Seymour, Bonita Campbell of Butler and Sonya Albaugh of Garrett; two brothers, James Norris of Haughton, La., and Ernest Norris Jr. of Blanchard, La.; two sisters, Sue Brannen and Reatha Morgan, both of Shreveport; nine grandchildren; one stepgrandchild; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at Buchanan Funeral Home, 115 N. Second St., Austin. The Rev. David Simpson will officiate. Burial will be in Spurgeon Cemetery in Austin.

Calling will be today from 6-9 p.m. and Wednesday after 9 a.m. at the funeral home.

James Trick

ANGOLA — James E. Trick, 69, of Omaha, Neb., died Monday, Jan. 7, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Trick

Mr. Trick was the senior project manager, bridge and construction, for Norfolk Southern Railroad.

He was an alumnus of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne in 1956 and Purdue University with a degree in civil engineering. He was a member of the Huntsville, Mo., United Methodist Church. He enjoyed biking, camping, sailing and doing archaeological digs, and was also a world traveler.

He was born Sept. 2, 1938, in Fort Wayne to Franklin and Madeleine (Roth) Trick. Both preceded him in death. He married Carole Ann McCollum on Aug. 15, 1961. She died on July 9, 2000.

He is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, Christopher and Sheryl Trick of Independence, Mo., Daniel Trick of Auburn, and Patrick and Kristie Trick of Angola; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Richard Trick of Angola, and Stephen and Charlene Trick of Fremont; five grandchildren, Natalie, Ryan, Alexa, Emily and Elizabeth; his life partner for the last seven years, Vicki Morgan; her children and their spouses, Michael and Jan Morgan, Matthew Morgan, and Kellie and Shane Yost; and her grandchildren, Brooke, Patrick, Evan and Taylor.

Services will be at 6 p.m. Thursday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola, with the Rev. Eric Piersimoni officiating. Burial will be in Deer Creek Cemetery in Acmetonia, Pa.

Calling will be three hours before the service Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to either the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center or the Carole Ann McCollum Trick Education Trust.

Carole Hancock

ANGOLA — Carole A. Hancock, 70, of Angola died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Hancock

Mrs. Hancock was a homemaker and a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born Feb. 26, 1937, in Fort Wayne to Harold and Leone (Bice) Graham. They preceded her in death.

She married Paul Hancock on Aug. 11, 1973, in Fort Wayne. He died Oct. 2, 2006.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Robert Slater of Angola, David and Sherry Slater of Edon, Ohio, and Steven and Alicia Hancock of Warwick, Bermuda; two daughters and a son-in-law, Theresa and Tony Disbro of Edon, Ohio, and Pamela Hancock and Tom Matson of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren and their spouses, Nick and Jessica Disbro of Edon, Ohio, Ben Disbro of Edon, Deidre Kishpaugh of Angola, Josh and Ashley Slater of Camden, Mich., Amber Slater of Edon and Cheryl Slater of Edon; five great-grandchildren, Trenton and Reece Disbro and Alexis, Kaydence and Alya Slater; and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Howard and Mae Graham of Bryan, Ohio, Harold and Jeanie Graham of Springfield, Ohio, and Daniel and Barb Graham of Columbia City.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Counts.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at New Hope Christian Center of Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Dygert Cemetery of Angola.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at New Hope Christian Center.

Memorials are to New Hope Christian Center or Williams County 4-H.

Shane Feightner

CROMWELL — Shane Anthony Feightner, 40, died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Feightner

Mr. Feightner loved hunting, fishing and football. He was known for always having a smile and being loved by his children and all who knew him.

He was born Nov. 7, 1967, to Kenneth and Carol (Ewing) Feightner.

Surviving are his father and stepmother, Kenneth and Treva; four sons, Tyler and Cody Feightner, Josh Fulk and Dekota Brown; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Becky Feightner; a sister and brother-in-law, Jeff and Gina Nelson, a stepbrother and his wife, Evan and Rachel Brown; his grandmother, Alice Houlton; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Tanner, and his mother.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church of Garrett, 201 S. Franklin St., Garrett.

Northeast Indiana Cremation of Fort Wayne is handling arrangements.

Suzanne Buehrer

ANGOLA — Suzanne E. Buehrer, 71, of Angola died Monday, Jan. 7, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Buehrer

Mrs. Buehrer was a homemaker.

She was a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church, a member of Sigma Phi Gamma-Alpha Iota chapter, and the Cameron Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoyed shopping, bowling, travel and caring for her home and family.

She was born Oct. 1, 1936, in Butler to Glen and Laura (Mallon) Leiter. Both preceded her in death. She married Rance Buehrer on Sept. 30, 1961, in the Huntertown United Methodist Church. He survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Brett and Michelle Buehrer and Brian Buehrer, all of Angola; a brother, Keith Leiter of Fort Wayne; a sister, Linda Tyler of LaOtto; and four grandchildren, Mitchell Buehrer, Brittany Nelson, Lindsay Dyson and Levi Dugger, all of Angola.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Angola, with the Rev. Alan LaRue officiating. Burial will be in South Scott Cemetery.

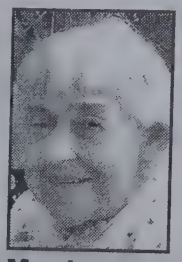
Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Cancer Society or Cameron hospital Auxiliary.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Blanche Lemper

AUBURN — Blanche Irene Lemper passed away January 8, 2008, surrounded by her family at the Betz Nursing Home in Auburn, Indiana. She had been in declining health since October of 2007.


Mrs. Lemper

Blanche was born September 4, 1919, one of 7 children of Sydney and Mary (Mohler) Bryant of Albion, IN. She grew up on a farm there, often riding her beloved pony, Beauty, to help her in her chores.

Blanche was a member of the Albion High School Class of 1937. After graduation, she moved to Auburn for her first job as a nanny for the Martin family. She soon met the man who would become her husband, joined a local Sorority and began her own family.

Blanche was married for 50 years to Victor Bernard Lemper who passed away July 4, 1989. Together, they had four children:

- Nina Lois, artist and wife of Dr. Norman Carrico, who reside in Bryan, Ohio.
- Joseph, who died June 15, 1962, at the age of 18 in a car crash.
- Genevieve, a retired Certified Public Accountant and wife of Lt. Colonel Kenton Deich, USAF, retired. The couple currently reside in the Seattle, Washington area.
- Anita, Secretary/Treasurer for the J.R. Watson Elementary School and wife of Kenneth Drew, Jr., who recently retired from General Electric and was an officer in Machinists Union Lodge 70 in Ft. Wayne. They live in Auburn.

1 grandchild, Sandra Kelly Carrico, who also died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident when she was 17, preceded Blanche in death. 9 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren and 7 great step-grandchildren survive Blanche. Her sister, Barbara Uhl, 93, of Granger, IN also survives her.

Blanche and Bernard owned and operated a 100-acre farm off Country Road 52 in Auburn where they raised dairy cows, pigs and chickens. Bernard also worked full-time at Warner Gear. Blanche and all her children worked part-time at the popular Little Brown House drive-through restaurant while the children were growing up and later attending college.

For Blanche, the measure of her life is the love she gave her family and the sense of purpose of her labors. She recognized the spirit of energy between herself and others, never uttering spiteful words of anyone. She adjusted with the changing world and always tried to create harmony among those she interacted. She lived her life richly as she understood the rhythm of life." Her family and friends will dearly miss her.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements for her services at the Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn on January 12, 2008. The Rosary will be recited at 8:45 AM in the Church hospitality room followed by Calling at 9:00 AM and Mass at 10:00 AM. Burial will be at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Auburn immediately following Mass. Pallbearers will be David Miller, Dean Reeve, Travis Bowman, Richard Drew, Carl Drew and James Drew.

Please send any condolences to Anita Drew, 915 East 1st Street, Auburn, Indiana 46706. Also, please make any donations in lieu of flowers to the Immaculate Conception Cemetery Fund, 500 East 7th Street, Auburn, Indiana 46706.

THE EVENING STAR
January 10 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Ziedonis Taube

GARRETT — Ziedonis "Sid" Taube, 69, of Garrett died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, at his residence.

Mr. Taube

Mr. Taube retired as an engineer from AEP after many years of service. He was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett. He liked to fish, and his hobbies included electronics and computers. He served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1965.

He was born June 1, 1938, in Latvia to Karlis and Marta (Brauns) Taube. They preceded him in death.

He married Dzidra Kupsis on Aug. 15, 1964, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She died Jan. 25, 2002.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Ingrid C. and Pat Maltes of Yoder; two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard K. and Alda Taube of Fort Wayne and Michael J. and Heather Taube of Kendallville; 10 grandchildren; two brothers, Eriks Taube of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Karlis Taube of Latvia; and two sisters, Skaldride and Anna Taube of Lativa.

Services will be Saturday at noon in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. A private burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery at a later date.

Calling will be Friday from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-noon at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church or Parkview Home Health and Hospice.

To sign the online guestbook or send condolences, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Ruth Buchs

WATERLOO — Ruth J. Buchs, 90, of Waterloo, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Buchs was a homemaker and a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo and its Rosary Society. She was especially fond of a family dog.

Mrs. Buchs

She was born Dec. 1, 1917, in Fort Wayne, to Joseph and Bertha (Scherer) Lauer. They preceded her in death.

She married Edward Buchs on Feb. 25, 1954, in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. He died July 11, 1997.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, John and Lana Buchs, Bill and Amy Buchs and Tom and Amy Buchs, all of Waterloo; a daughter, Darlene Buchs of Waterloo; and eight grandchildren, Wade and Taryn Buchs, Cory, Natalie and Lexie Buchs, and Nick, Becca and Abby Buchs,

Funeral services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to provide additional information.*

Suzanne Buehrer

ANGOLA — Suzanne E. Buehrer, 71, of Angola died Monday, Jan. 7, 2008, at her home after a 10-year battle with cancer.

Mrs. Buehrer

Mrs. Buehrer was a homemaker.

She was a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church, a member of Sigma Phi Gamma-Alpha Iota chapter, and the Cameron Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoyed shopping, bowling, travel and caring for her home and family.

She was born Oct. 1, 1936, in Butler Township, DeKalb County, to Glen and Laura (Mallon) Leiter. Both preceded her in death. She married Rance Buehrer on Sept. 30, 1961, in the Huntertown United Methodist Church. He survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Brett and Michelle Buehrer and Brian Buehrer, all of Angola; a brother, Keith Leiter of Fort Wayne; a sister, Linda Tyler of LaOtto; and four grandchildren, Mitchell Buehrer, Brittany Nelson, Lindsay Dyson and Levi Dugger, all of Angola.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Angola, with the Rev. Alan LaRue officiating. Burial will be in South Scott Cemetery

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Cancer Society or Cameron hospital Auxiliary.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

THE EVENING STAR
January 11 2008 Auburn, Indiana

John Evers, longtime businessman, dies at 67

KENDALLVILLE — Longtime Kendallville and Rome City businessman John M. Evers, 67, of Kendallville died Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at North Ridge Village Nursing & Rehab Center in Albion.

Mr. Evers

Mr. Evers owned and operated Evers Motor Sales in Kendallville from 1955-1975.

He had owned Blaisings Tavern in Rome City since 1990, where he had cultivated a large number of close friends. He had also owned Bogeys to Birdies driving range in Kendallville until 2005.

He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1958 and attended Indiana State University for two years. He then entered the United States Army, serving his country from 1961 to 1964.

Mr. Evers enjoyed spending many winters with his family and friends at Dauphin Island, Ala. He enjoyed fishing in Alabama and in Canada at Manatoulin Island.

He also loved four-wheeling with his granddaughter. He was a huge NASCAR fan and Tony Stewart was his favorite driver. He had also loved spending time with his favorite dog, who died just the day before he did.

Mr. Evers was a member of American Legion Post 381 in Rome City and served twice as exalted ruler of the Kendallville Elks Lodge.

He was born in Kendallville on May 3, 1940, to Walter H. "Hood" and Hazel B. (Kreischer) Evers. He married Sara Judith "Judy" King on Dec. 30, 1961, in Fort Wayne. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Denice Evers of Rome City; a granddaughter, Delaney "Potlicker" Evers of Rome City; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Joe and Jean King of Kendallville; a brother-in-law, Don King of Knox; and several nieces, nephews, aunts and cousins.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home with the Rev. Ken Weaver officiating. Honorary bearers will be Terry Kurtz, Greg Reidenbach, Duane Smith, Robert Butts, Dan Cass, Owen Drerup, Gary Weitzel, Jim Shrock, Tom Garton, Carl Gipson and John McIroy.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble Hospice.

View a video tribute (after Saturday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Margie Abell

BUTLER — Margie I. Abell, 79, of Butler died Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Abell worked for Partee Co. in Spencerville and then for Lectron in Hamilton before retiring in 1996. She attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

Mrs. Abell

She was born Sept. 18, 1928, in Petersburg to Joseph and Clona (Ficklin) Church. They preceded her in death.

She married Eugene Abell on Nov. 27, 1948, in Petersburg. He died March 4, 2005.

Surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Mike and Kathy Abell of Newville, Larry Joe Abell of Newville and Randy Abell of Butler; two daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Fay and Phillip Fluke of Butler and Sharon and Dennis Bates of Bryan, Ohio; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Gary Dean and Peggy Church of Petersburg, Maurice Church of Florida, Danny and Jan Church of Mesa, Ariz., and Julius and Cookie Church of Petersburg; a sister, Midge Harvey of Hazelton; 16 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Lena May Church, and four brothers, Wayne, Carlos, Glenn and Leon Church.

THIS OBITUARY *is being reprinted with additional information about family members.*

Ruth Buchs

WATERLOO — Ruth J. Buchs, 90, of Waterloo, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Buchs was a homemaker and a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo and its Rosary Society. She was especially fond of a family dog, Beasley.

Mrs Buchs

She was born Dec. 1, 1917, in Fort Wayne, to Joseph and Bertha (Scherer) Lauer. They preceded her in death.

She married Edward Buchs on Feb. 25, 1954, in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. He died July 11, 1997.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Home Health.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, John and Lana Buchs, Bill and Amy Buchs and Tom and Amy Buchs, all of Waterloo; a daughter, Darlene Buchs of Waterloo; eight grandchildren, Wade and Taryn Buchs, Cory, Natalie and Lexie Buchs, and Nick, Becca and Abby Buchs; and a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Jeanne Lauer of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Lauer, and a sister, Leona Egts.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

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Robert Schannen, Jr.

ASHLEY — Robert H. Schannen, Jr., 64, of Ashley died Friday, Jan. 11, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Schannen was devoted to his wife, children and grandchildren. He enjoyed their many activities. Mr. Schannen loved to play golf and was a fan of the New York Yankees. He loved animals, especially his dogs.

He farmed all his life. Mr. Schannen also worked at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 20 years, then at Consolidated Freightways in Fremont for 19, and Aunt Millies Bakeries in Fort Wayne for six years.

He was born May 26, 1943, in Ashley to Robert H. Sr. and Thelma (Wise) Schannen. He married Nancy Hindman on June 30, 1962, in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Steven and Stacy Schannen of Hudson and Mark Schannen and Ginnie Hart of Fort Wayne; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Katie Schannen of Aliso Viejo, Calif., Ann Maugherman of Indianapolis, Lisa and Larry Clark and Stephanie and Dave Ryan, all of Angola and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo with Father David Carkenord officiating.

Calling will be Monday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to Riley's Children Hospital, St. Michael's Catholic Church Restoration Fund or St. Anthony's Building Fund.

Auburn man spent life serving others

Dorsey Speer was fun to be around and upbeat

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Dorsey E. Speer may have been short in stature — 5 feet, 4 inches — but he was big in heart and soul.

He devoted his life to helping others, including not only family, friends and his beloved community, but complete strangers he met through his years working with the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speer died Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007, at the age of 83.

Born and raised in Auburn, he spent his childhood on his paternal grandparents' farm in rural DeKalb County. There, Dorsey's sister, Marma LaRowe of Garrett, their brother Leland and sister Dolene — "Dee" Fisher of Angola — lived with their parents, Trevor and Alice (Webster) Speer. Their parents helped their grandparents, John and Cora Speer, run the farm. Dorsey and his siblings attended a one-room schoolhouse nearby.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dorsey Speer served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Speer's grandparents sold the farm when he was a teen. His parents and siblings moved to Waterloo, while Speer lived with his grandparents in Auburn, where he attended Auburn High School.

After graduation, Speer served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46 during World War II. He was very proud of his service to his country, and for the rest of his life, showed the utmost respect for any veteran he met. After returning home, he met Ruth Emerson and fell in love. They were married in 1946 and spent the next 55 years together, until Ruth died in 2001.

The couple had three children, Jerilyn "Jeri" and twins, Dorsey "Skip" and Deborah "Deb," as well as 10 grandchildren.

"They were inseparable and obviously adored each other," Skip Speer said of his parents.

Dorsey Speer held a variety of jobs and enjoyed all of them. He worked for Dilgard and Cline Furniture Store and Funeral Home for 24 years and later, for Feller Furniture Store and Funeral Home, and as a salesman for Brand Mobile Home Sales in Waterloo and Rohm Chevrolet and Ben Davis Chevrolet in Auburn.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dorsey and Ruth Speer are shown in 1999 with their children, from left, Skip, Deb and Jeri.

Ron Feller, founder of Feller Funeral Home, worked with Speer for almost 30 years.

"I never ran into anyone who did not like Dorsey Speer," Feller said. "If he had any weakness, it was his compassion for others."

Because of his caring nature, the ambulance runs made by funeral homes years ago — particularly those dealing with children — were especially hard on Speer, Feller said. Many times after returning from a call that involved the injury or death of a child, Speer would collapse on the floor, grief-stricken, Feller said.

Whenever there was a funeral of a child, Speer always bought a toy or stuffed animal and quietly slipped it into the casket before burial so the child "could take it with him or her," Feller remembers.

Speer's children also remember his special compassion toward children.

"Sometimes dad would come home after making a run and be devastated by what he had seen," Jeri Walburn of Ely, Minn., said of her father. "It was especially hard for him if there were children involved. He would be so upset. He loved all children."

As a salesman, "Dad always had repeat customers," said Skip Speers. "He was just a nice guy and never pressured anyone. People liked that."

"People trusted him completely," Feller said, "and they would say that was their reason for buying from him."

Speer served as a member of the Auburn City Council for 16 years and was president of the Auburn Rotary Club and the Auburn Jaycees. He was a member of the Auburn Moose Lodge and the American Legion Post 97.

All three of Speer's children recall sharing their holiday meals and family festivities with strangers their father had invited over.

"Dad was working for the Salvation Army, and it was nothing to come home on Thanksgiving or for a holiday meal and find several transients sitting at our table," Deb McClure said.

"Sometimes in the middle of the night, some of the regulars would show up at our house and dad would get up and take them to the Auburn Hotel, pay for a few nights' lodging and get them a decent meal," Skip Speer said.

Dorsey Speer enjoyed hunting, fishing and traveling, especially with his family.

"He was the most devoted family man, proud veteran and loyal employee I've ever known," Feller said. "He was completely devoted to his wife and children."

His son-in-law, Greg McClure, said that in the 40 years he knew Speer, he never heard him say a mean word.

"He loved life and all of the people around him," McClure said. "He always went out of his way to help others."

Although he was a longtime member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church, Speer was not a man who believed in shouting his faith. He simply lived it — in his everyday actions, by always treating his fellow man with kindness, humility and grace and by his devotion to his community, to his family and to his faith.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with additional information about surviving relatives.*

Robert Schannen Jr.

ASHLEY — Robert H. Schannen Jr., 64, of Ashley died Friday, Jan. 11, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Schannen was devoted to his wife, children and grandchildren and enjoyed their many activities. He loved to play golf and was a fan of the New York Yankees. He loved animals, especially his dogs.

Mr. Schannen farmed all his life. He also worked at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 20 years, then at Consolidated Freightways in Fremont for 19 years and at Aunt Millie's Bakeries in Fort Wayne for six years.

He was born May 26, 1943, in Ashley to Robert H. Sr. and Thelma (Wise) Schannen.

He married Nancy Hindman on June 30, 1962, in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Steven and Stacy Schannen of Hudson and Mark Schannen and Ginnie Hart of Fort Wayne; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Katie Schannen of Aliso Viejo, Calif., Ann Maugherman of Indianapolis, Lisa and Larry Clark and Stephanie and Dave Ryan, all of Angola; nine grandchildren; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Phyllis and Jerry Foley of Hamilton and Marilyn and Steve Newman of Hudson.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo with Father David Carkenord officiating.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children, St. Michael's Catholic Church Restoration Fund or St. Anthony's Building Fund.

Mary Dembickie

GARRETT — Mary Catherine Dembickie, 83, of Garrett died Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008, at 6:30 a.m. in Provena Sacred Heart Home of Aviila.

Mrs. Dembickie

Mrs. Dembickie worked in the cafeteria for Garrett schools from 1965-1975. She then worked as a clerk for the Boston Store in Garrett for two years, retiring in 1977.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harvest House, Rosary Society, Daughters of Isabella, Provena Sacred Heart Home Auxiliary and the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary.

She was born June 4, 1924, in Garrett to Edmund J. and Hilaria L. (Vanderbosch) Mezydlo. They preceded her in death.

She married William T. Dembickie on Sept. 12, 1946, in Garrett. He died Jan. 31, 2000.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Janet Dembickie of Fort Wayne, Richard and Linda Dembickie of Tucson, Ariz., and Steven and Gail Dembickie of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Paula and Tom Engle of Middletown, R.I., and Nancy and Steve Stine of Garrett; a brother, Edmund Mezydlo of Westerville, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Ami Joan Stine, and three sisters, Phyllis Bedell, Joan Haffner and Roberta Grobis.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. A rosary service will begin at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett or Provena Sacred Heart Home of Avilla.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to list additional surviving relatives.*

David Payton

STURGIS, Mich. — David Lee Payton, 67, of Sturgis, Mich., died Friday morning, Jan. 11, 2008, at Select Specialties Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Mr. Payton retired from Manufactured Structures in Middlebury, where he had been employed as a courier for eight years. Before that, he had been employed as a diesel mechanic at Griffins Trucking in Sturgis.

He enjoyed playing cards, fishing and following the Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Lions.

He had lived in Sturgis since 1960, coming from Bronson, Mich.

He was born Nov. 5, 1940, in Auburn to Robert Lee and Dorothy (Carper) Harker Payton.

He married Nellie Singleton on Sept. 19, 1964, in Sturgis. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, David and Dora Payton and Robert and Michelle Payton; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Debbie and Brad Badders of Coldwater, Mich., Tammy and Brett Smith of Quincy, Mich., Sherry and Kevin Brueck of Sturgis and Tonya Hopkins of Sturgis; 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Barbara Browning of Mendon, Mich., and Becky and Ken Davis of Sturgis, Mich.; a half brother, Doug Payton of Garrett; a half sister, Vonda Freeman of Garrett; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father and his mother and stepfather, Dorothy and Pete Harker,.

Services will be today at 10 a.m. in Rosenberg-Schipper Funeral Home, 114 S. Nottawa St., Sturgis, with Minister Randy Poe of the Old Regular Baptist Church officiating. A graveside service will follow in Oak Lawn Cemetery of Sturgis.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association, 648 Monroe Ave. NW, Suite 004, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

THE EVENING STAR
January 15 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Paul Mutzfeld

BUTLER — Paul B. Mutzfeld, 100, died Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at Wesley Healthcare of Auburn.

Mr. Mutzfeld

Mr. Mutzfeld operated the movie projector for the Butler Theatre and worked for the Indiana State Highway Department, Higley Press, Butler Lumber Co. and Mold Service of Butler. He served as Butler clerk-treasurer for 12 years.

He was a Butler High School graduate, a member of the Butler United Methodist Church and a former member of the Butler Lions Club. He served on the board of directors for the Heimach Center and for the Butler Public Library, and delivered Meals on Wheels for several years.

He was born Sept. 23, 1907, in Butler to Eli and Sada (Sawvel) Mutzfeld.

He married Mareta Bonecutter on June 1, 1939, in Gary. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Belva and Sidney Meyer of Auburn and Lorna and Craig Atz of Ligonier; one son and daughter-in-law, Earl and Deborah Mutzfeld of Hamilton; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Wayland Mutzfeld; two sisters, Mabel Steckley and Ruth Swain; and a daughter-in-law, Shirley Mutzfeld.

A memorial service will be at a later date. There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church or Butler Library Building Fund.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Willis Tuttle

AUBURN — Willis Tuttle, 83, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Tuttle

Mr. Tuttle worked at Auburn Foundry for 25 years and retired from Garrett Industries in 1991.

He was a member of the Auburn Elks Lodge and a past member of the Auburn Moose Lodge. He enjoyed watching DeKalb High School sports and frequently attended many of his grandchildren's sporting events. He also enjoyed watching NASCAR, Purdue basketball and Braves baseball. His hobby was woodcrafts, and he was known by many for his Uncle Sams. He was proud of his family and enjoyed family gatherings and daily visits from his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was born Dec. 16, 1924, to Freeman and Clara (Fry) Tuttle in Angola. They preceded him in death.

He married Cora Rowlison on Aug. 9, 1941, in Bryan, Ohio. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Nancy and Ralph Lint of Auburn and Connie and Paul Deignan of Lake James; a son and daughter-in-law, Duane and Herma Tuttle of Auburn; eight grandchildren and their spouses, Jodi and Ned Donaldson of Auburn, Jeff and Heather Lint of Crown Point, Julie and Joey Nack of Auburn, Tonia and Dave Herman of Angola, Thad and Anna Nixon of Auburn, Ryan and Kelly Deignan of Indianapolis, Tracy and Jeff Wilhelm of Waterloo and Michelle and Jon David of South Salem, N.Y.; 19 great-grandchildren, Jama and Jenna Donaldson, Nick, Steven and Megan Lint, Nolan and Kaden Nack, Justin Lamont, Brett, Mark and Madeline Herman, Alexis and Caleb Nixon, Chelsea and Kendall Wilhelm, and Jake, Peyton, Avery and Jesse David; a brother and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Arlene Tuttle of Pleasant Lake; a sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Floyd Stutzman of Ashley; and two sisters-in-law, Geraldine Tuttle (widow of Richard) of Elkhart and Ruby Tuttle (widow of John) of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Raymond, Richard and John, and a sister, Ruth Tuttle.

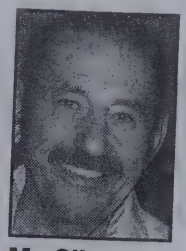
Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to New Hope Christian Center or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Ralph Gibson

AUBURN — Ralph J. Gibson, 73, of Auburn died Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at 9 p.m. at his home.


Mr. Gibson

Mr. Gibson was a farmer and worked at Zollner in Fort Wayne for 30 years. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

He was born April 28, 1934, in Allen County to Walter and Grace (Bobay) Gibson.

He married Janet Miller on Oct. 1, 1955. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Roger and Sylvia Gibson of Van Wert, Ohio, Mark and Christine Gibson of Auburn and Glenn and Kim Gibson of Pleasant Lake; six grandchildren, three stepgrandchildren; nine stepgreat-grandchildren; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Gerry and Virgil Huguenard of Monroeville and Delores and Al Schmidt of New Haven; one brother-in-law, Robert Morris of Florida; and one sister-in-law, Virginia Gibson of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Chris Gibson; one brother, Delbert Gibson; and one sister, Evelyn Morris.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to A New Day Adult Day Service of Auburn.

Betty Alger

AUBURN — Betty A. Alger, 80, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home of Auburn.

Mrs. Alger

Mrs. Alger was a pharmacy technician at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, retiring in 1984. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn. She also was a member of Women of the Moose Lodge 566 and volunteered in the Curiosity Shop at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

She was born Oct. 28, 1927, in Chicago to William P. and Pauline J. (Meyer) Egar. They preceded in her death.

She married Jerry T. Alger on Feb. 3, 1951, in Chicago. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, David J. and Jayne Alger of Ligonier and Jon A. and Shawn Alger of Fort Wayne; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Jerri Ann Carlson of Lafayette, Beth A. and William Walsh of Auburn and Judi A. and Shannon Burgess of Albion; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one brother, William P. "Bill" Egar Jr. of Wayzata, Minn.; and one sister, Isabel M. Egar of Auburn.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Auburn. Father David Carkenord will officiate.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

The rosary will be recited at 7:45 p.m. Thursday in the funeral Home.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Roger Shull

AUBURN — Roger A. Shull, 87, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home of Auburn.

Mr. Shull

Mr. Shull worked as a truck driver for Smith Transfer of Fort Wayne for 38 years, then worked for Foley Pattern Co. of Auburn for 16 years, retiring in January 2002.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II. He was a life member of Auburn Moose Lodge 566, a member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn and a life member of the Waterloo post of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was born Nov. 30, 1920, in Auburn to Elzie and Ida Mae (Hess) Shull. They preceded him in death.

He married Delores Carper on June 15, 1946, in Auburn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Roger Shull of Auburn and Ricky and Carolyn Shull, also of Auburn; three grandchildren, Erin, Abigail and Colin Shull; and one sister, Rosemarie Culbertson of Okeechobee, Fla.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Pamela Jo Shull, who died at birth, and one sister, Helen Joan Castleman.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Al Black will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn with military graveside services by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home. Auburn Moose Lodge 566 will conduct a Moose service at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association or the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Lucille Dewey

GARRETT — Lucille Dewey, 79, of Garrett and formerly of Dowagiac, Mich., died Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2007, at 12:25 a.m. in Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home of Garrett.

She worked as a school bus driver for Dowagiac Schools in Michigan for more than 30 years.

She was born Nov. 14, 1928, in Benton Center, Mich., to Fred and Grace (Gillem) Tripp.

Surviving are a daughter, Grace L. Dewey of Garrett; a son, Rory A. Dewey of Dowagiac, Mich., two grandsons, David L. Simpson of Albion and Donnie R. Simpson of Garrett; two granddaughters, Crystal M. Simpson of Auburn and Elena Dewey of Plymouth; two brothers, one sister and seven great-grandchildren.

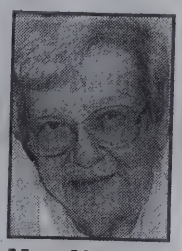
She was preceded in death by her parents, a son, Lester M. Dewey, and two brothers.

There will be no services or calling. Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Mary Able

FORT WAYNE — Mary C. Able, 79, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Garrett died Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mrs. Able

Mrs. Able was a homemaker and a member of First Baptist Church of Garrett.

She was born Dec. 10, 1928, in Peru, Ind., to Harry and Helen Clark. They preceded her in death.

On Nov. 8, 1947, in South Whitley, she married David T. Able. He died July 7, 2004.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy and Barth Ragatz of Fort Wayne and Pat and Rick Rowe of Garrett; a son, Tom Able of Silver Lake; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Phil Mortensen officiating. Burial will be in South Whitley Cemetery.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service in the funeral home.

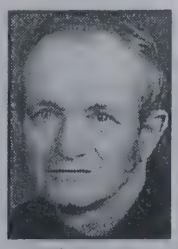
Memorials are to Fort Wayne Miller's Merry Manor Activities Department.

To send condolences or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Delbert Cobbs

CORUNNA — Delbert L. Cobbs, 82, of Corunna, died Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mr. Cobbs owned and operated Cobbs Live Bait in Corunna, retiring in 1990, and also was a part-time farmer. He enjoyed fishing and watching his granddaughter participate in sports. He had been a private in the U.S. Army, serving during World War II.


Mr. Cobbs

He was born Oct. 17, 1925, in Vicksburg, Mich., to Harley A. and Emma (DeBrian) Cobbs. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Vickie and Grady Holifield of Hudson; a granddaughter and her husband, Michelle and Gary Cantrell of Paintsville, Ky.; two great-grandchildren, Alexis and Austin Cantrell of Paintsville; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Arthur Cobbs of Garrett and Carl and Pat Cobbs of Corunna; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Esther Andrus of St. George, Utah, Eleanor Fee of Waterloo and Shirley and David Ely of Auburn; and two ex-wives, Beverly Thurman of Garrett and Zaundra Hicks of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by a son, Delbert L. Cobbs Jr., and three brothers, Cleo Cobbs, Jack Cobbs and Harley Cobbs Jr.

Services will be Sunday at noon in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Sam Weimer officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from noon-2 p.m. and 4 -6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-noon at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alexis and Austin Cantrell College Fund, in care of Farmers State Bank, Ashley.

Mary Ellen Stepp

AUBURN — Mary Ellen Stepp, 81, died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Stepp was a registered nurse, working in local hospitals and private practice. She worked in Dr. Bradley Hughes' office and was the head nurse on the third floor at DeKalb Memorial Hospital. She retired Nov. 1, 1991.

Mrs. Stepp

She volunteered for Compassion Pregnancy Center in Auburn. She was a member of Christian Union Brethren in Christ Church of Garrett, where she was always very active, serving as a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent and on the music committee for many years.

She was born Nov. 21, 1926, in Wabash County to Joseph Clyde and Edith Pearl (Strohl) Sterling. They preceded her in death.

She married Bert Stepp in July 1949 in Lincolnville. He survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Samuel and Sue Stepp of Milford, Ill., Paul and Beth Stepp of Angola, James and Teresa Stepp of Mansfield, Mo., and Jon and Char Stepp of Nappanee; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Everett and Marilyn Slagle of Pella, Iowa, and Dan and Norma Slagle of Wabash; and a sister, Ruth Summers of Hemet, Calif.

Services will be Monday at 10:30 a.m. at Christian Union Brethren in Christ Church, 4395 C.R. 7, Garrett. The Rev. Joe Laher will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to Youth for Christ or Child Evangelism Fellowship.

THE EVENING STAR
January 18 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Mary Wells Barrand

PLEASANT LAKE — Mary L. Wells Barrand, 77, of Pleasant Lake died Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Barrand had worked at Wayne Home Equipment and Joseph H. Cohen & Son.

She was a member of the Pleasant Lake Fire Department Auxiliary and graduated high school from the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

She was born Aug. 2, 1930, in Auburn, to Dewey and Florence Wells. Her mother later remarried; her stepfather was Richard Ritchie. All three proceeded her in death. She married Hubert Barrand on June 3, 1949, in Fort Wayne. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert and Cindy Barrand of Orland, and Richard Barrand of Elkhart; a daughter, Suzanna Barrand of Pleasant Lake; a half brother, Richard Ritchie of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren, Dan and Missy Barrand, David Barrand and Robin and Josh Laymon; and two great-grandchildren, Ryley and Tony Barrand.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Donald Wells.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. Burial will be in Pleasant Lake Cemetery in Pleasant Lake.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct an error.*

Mary Wells Barrand

PLEASANT LAKE — Mary L. Wells Barrand, 77, of Pleasant Lake died Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Barrand had worked at Wayne Home Equipment and Joseph H. Cohen & Son.

She was a member of the Pleasant Lake Fire Department Auxiliary and graduated high school from the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

She was born Aug. 2, 1930, in Auburn to Dewey and Florence Wells. Her mother later remarried; her stepfather was Richard Ritchie. All three proceeded her in death. She married Hubert Barrand on June 3, 1949, in Fort Wayne. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert and Cindy Barrand of Orland, and Richard Barrand of Elkhart; a daughter, Suzanna Barrand of Pleasant Lake; a half brother, Richard Ritchie of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren, Dan and Missy Barrand, David Barrand and Robin and Josh Laymon; and two great-grandchildren, Ryley and Toby Barrand.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Donald Wells.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. Burial will be in Pleasant Lake Cemetery in Pleasant Lake.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Repeating to provide additional information.

Robert Westfall

BLUFFTON — Robert Eugene Westfall, 78, of Bluffton, died Friday morning, Jan. 18, 2008, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center in Bluffton.

Mr. Westfall

Mr. Westfall was a dairy farmer in Wells County, retiring in 1987. After retiring from farming, he worked at Appraisal Research Corp. He and his wife served as caretakers of the 4-H Park in Bluffton.

He was the Sunday School superintendent and treasurer of South Liberty Christian Church until it closed and then attended the First Church of the Nazarene in Bluffton. He was a member of the Wheels of Yesteryear.

He was born June 12, 1929, in Van Buren to Earl Leon and Edith Dale (Bradford) Westfall. They preceded him in death.

He married Edith Lou Trotter on March 20, 1949, in Landess. She died Dec. 27, 2007.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald E. and Trudy Westfall of Bluffton and Roger A. and Irene Westfall of Huntington; a daughter and son-in-law, Roberta S. and Brian Carnahan of Spencerville; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Rose Marie Westfall of Van Buren and Russell and Judy Westfall of Van Buren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Bonnie Johnson and Joan Bryant.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in the First Church of the Nazarene, 1515 Clark Ave., Bluffton. Pastor Aaron Westfall and Pastor Larry Sheets will officiate. Burial will be in Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Marion.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Goodwin Memorial Chapel, 3220 E. S.R. 124, Bluffton.

Memorials are to Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 S. 4-H Road, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

Alexander Yanuszeski

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Alexander D. Yanuszeski, 87, of Oklahoma City and formerly of Garrett died Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, in Oklahoma City following a lengthy illness.

Mr. Yanuszeski had been a buyer for the Oklahoma Hardware Co. and a longtime Oklahoma resident.

He was a 1939 graduate of Garrett High School and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

He was born Sept. 23, 1920, in Garrett to Vincent P. and Helen (Sikorski) Yanuszeski.

His wife, Ellen "Jeanne" Herwig Yanuszeski, preceded him in death.

Surviving are a brother, Richard Yanuszeski of Kendallville, and a sister, Dolores Doolittle of Lillian, Ala.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Edwin "Red" Yanuszeski and Valentine "Volly" Yanuszeski.

Services were held in Oklahoma City.

Jacob devoted to family, community

BY TIFFANY YODER
tiffanyy@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Loving, devoted and determined are how friends and family members portray Dorothy Ruth "Ruthie" Jacob, who died Jan. 5.

"Any nice words you can think of would probably describe my wife, Ruthie," said G. Wendell Jacob.

Ruthie was born Sept. 13, 1920, in Chicago to Otis Allen and Claudia Ruth (Snyder) Green. She married Wendell on Dec. 5, 1942. He was owner of Jacob Insurance Service in Angola and served as mayor of Angola.

Ruthie was actively involved in her community. She was a member and secretary at the Angola United Methodist Church. She was a member of the United Methodist Women, sewing circles, the Angola Garden Club, Beta Sigma Phi sorority and the Angola Book Review Club.

Ruthie had been educated and trained to work as a secretary. She was the secretary to the vice president of Armour meat packing company in Chicago before spending time as a homemaker.

Her nephew, Kim Tubergan, said she was a meticulous housekeeper. She took time to cook for her husband as long as she was able to, getting up to make and eat breakfast with him, making him a sandwich for lunch and often cooking dinner for the family.

"She was the epitome of a housewife," Tubergan said.

Her role as a housewife was shown in the way she took care of the needs of her family and other loved ones. Tubergan described her as devoted to her family. She read to, played with and spent time with her son, Glenn, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dorothy "Ruthie" Jacob died Jan. 5. Here, she dances with her husband, Wendell, who served as the mayor of Angola.

"She was a wonderful mother," Wendell said. "Just dedicated to the idea that she was going to do the proper rearing of our child."

Her dedication to family grew throughout the years. Her granddaughter Kathryn Lawson had a wedding in 2001, shortly after Ruthie had hip surgery. Despite her husband's warnings not to dance at the reception, Ruthie would not give in.

"She said, 'I am going to dance at my granddaughter's wedding,'" he said.

Ruthie displayed a special talent at family gatherings. She had a loud, clear whistle she used as a signal to her family when she wanted them for something. Though her family knew her whistle and what it meant, not everyone who heard it immediately recognized the meaning of it.

"Her whistle even prevailed at the nursing home," Wendell said. After moving to Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation in Angola, Ruthie used her whistle in lieu of another call to get the attention of staff.

One thing Tubergan said he always remembered about his aunt was the close relationship she had with her husband. He talked of how Ruthie and Wendell would always go to coffee together in the morning and spend vacation time together.

"They were always a couple," he said.

Both Jacob and Tubergan described her as very thoughtful, always looking out for her friends and family. Wendell said she took care to plan family activities and vacations and to always coordinate their plans while meeting everyone's needs.

"She was just a wonderful person," he said.

THE EVENING STAR
January 20 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Janice Witte

ST. JOE — Janice I. Witte, 76, died Friday, Jan. 18, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Witte was born on Dec. 13, 1931, in St. Joe to Harry and Lulu Shuff. She married Richard Lee Witte Sept. 5, 1953, in Fort Wayne. He preceded her death April 14, 2005.

Mrs. Witte is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Diane Witte of St. Joe; three daughters and their spouses, Valerie Sue Shaefer of St. Joe, Jill and Noah Moore of St. Joe, and Vickie and John Woolever of Auburn; nine siblings, Joan Jackie Walker and Roseanne Kinsey, all of St. Joe, Faye Ells and Claudia Hulbert and James Shuff, all of Auburn, Chalmer Shuff or Arizona, Shirley Chapman of Butler and Bill Shuff of California;10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Witte was preceded in death by four sisters, Kaye M. Ellis, Linda Sattison, Kate Clady and Mary Snook; four brothers, Harry Jr., Franklin, Maurice and Robert Shuff, and a great-granddaughter, Kylee Everage.

Services will be Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joe Church of Christ with Pastor Eddie Clark officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Memorials are to Autism Community Together, P.O. Box 8230, Fort Wayne, IN 46898.

Alden McClure Jr.

AUBURN — Alden Ray "Sonny" McClure Jr. 52, of Auburn died unexpectedly and was found at his home at 4:20 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, 2007.

Mr. McClure Jr.

Mr. McClure spent his formative years in Churubusco and was a 1974 graduate of Churubusco High School.

He had worked at Graber Excavating in Auburn for several years, and for the past seven years had worked in road construction for Wayne Asphalt & Construction Co. Inc. in Fort Wayne.

An avid sports fan, he enjoyed golf and recently had scored a hole-in-one. He enjoyed fishing, bluegrass music, and was a fan of the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana University basketball and NASCAR.

Mr. McClure was a member of the Professional Golf Association.

He was born Dec. 5, 1955, in Fort Wayne to Alden Ray McClure Sr. and Betty J. (Walker) McClure.

Surviving are a daughter, Tinly Hoffman of Fort Wayne; his mother and stepfather, Betty J. and Leroy Lawson of Churubusco; his siblings and their spouses, Carol Butler of Spencerville, Gloria Hughett of Fort Wayne, June Houlton of Auburn, Linda and Duane Barth of Columbia City, Beverly and Joe Gray of Archbold, Ohio, David McClure and his fiancee, Rebecca Coffelt, of Columbia City, Aaron McClure and his fiancee, Cynthia Freeman, of Churubusco, and Wanda Van Horn of Auburn; and three grandchildren Austin Hoffman, Peyton Gaff and Alyvia Hoffman.

He was preceded in death by his father and a son, Jeremy Ray Hoffman, on Nov. 3, 2002.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with the Rev. Timothy Grable, pastor of Sugar Grove Church of God, officiating. Burial will be in Eel River Cemetery near Churubusco.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and one hour prior to the service Wednesday.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

Ralph Kemerly

AVILLA — Ralph L. Kemerly, 89, of Avilla died Friday, Jan. 18, 2008, at 7:44 p.m. at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Kemerly

Mr. Kemerly had moved to the area in 1973 from Detroit, Mich.

He had retired in 1997 as a maintenance man for the Garrett-Keyser-Butler School Corp.

Mr. Kemerly served in the U.S. Army Infantry during World War II in the Pacific.

He was devoted to his family.

He was born on Nov. 20, 1918, in Chicago to Herman and Maude (Brown) Kemerly. He married Maxine Imler on Dec. 20, 1940. She died on May 28, 1982.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, David and Anna Kemerly of Avilla and Steve and Rita Kemerly of LaOtto; a daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and William Gay of Avilla; his grandchildren and their spouses, David and Georgia Kemerly Jr., Linda and Brent Ramsey, Kirk and Kim Gay, Chad and Kristy Gay, Jamie and Pam Kemerly and Crystal Sobieski; 15 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Francis Winkler of Kentucky and Martha Taggert of Wisconsin.

All services will be private.

To send online condolences or to sign an online register, go to brazzell-funeralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
January 21 2008 Auburn, Indiana

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted with revised information.*

Janice Witte

ST. JOE — Janice I. Witte, 76, died Friday, Jan. 18, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Witte was a member of the St. Joe Church of Christ.

She was born on Dec. 13, 1931, in St. Joe to Harry and Lulu Shuff.

She married Richard Lee Witte on Sept. 5, 1953, in Fort Wayne. He died April 14, 2005.

Mrs. Witte is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Diane Witte of St. Joe; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Valerie Sue Shaefer of St. Joe, Jill and Noah Moore of St. Joe, and Vickie and John Woolever of Auburn; nine siblings, Joan Mills, Jackie Walker and Roseanne Kinsey, all of St. Joe, Faye Tarlton and Claudia Hulbert, both of Auburn. James Shuff of Garrett, Chalmer Shuff of Arizona, Shirley Chapman of Butler and Bill Shuff of California;10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Witte was preceded in death by four sisters, Kaye M. Ells, Linda Sattison, Kate Clady and Mary Snook; four brothers, Harry Jr., Franklin, Maurice and Robert Shuff, and a great-granddaughter, Kylee Everage.

Services will be Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Joe Church of Christ with Pastor Eddie Clark officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials are to Autism Community Together, P.O. Box 8230, Fort Wayne, IN 46898.

Felicia Tink-Bermudez

AUBURN — Felicia Jane Tink-Bermudez, 27, of Auburn and formerly of Butler, died Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, at her home.

She served in the U.S. Navy from 1998 to 2002.

She attended the First United Methodist Church of Auburn and attended the Women of Faith Sunday School Class. She was a member of the YMCA.

She was born Dec. 26, 1980, in Butler to Kathleen Jane Whitman. She survives in Butler.

She married Felix R. Bermudez on May 15, 1999, in the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church in rural Butler. He survives in Auburn.

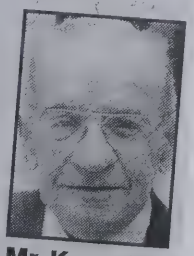
Also surviving are a son, Felix A. Bermudez and a daughter, Esadora V. Bermudez, both of Auburn; and two sisters, Margo R. Trevino of Auburn and Alexis A. Ross of Butler.

Memorials are to the Felicia Bermudez family, in care of Felix Bermudez.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct information provided by the funeral home.*

Ralph Kemerly

AVILLA — Ralph L. Kemerly, 89, of Avilla died Friday, Jan. 18, 2008, at 7:44 p.m. at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Kemerly

Mr. Kemerly had moved to the area in 1973 from Detroit, Mich.

He had retired in 1997 as a maintenance man for the Garrett-Keyser-Butler School Corp.

Mr. Kemerly served in the U.S. Army Infantry during World War II in the Pacific. He was a 1937 graduate of Avilla High School.

He was devoted to his family.

He was born on Nov. 20, 1918, in Chicago to Herman and Maude (Brown) Kemerly. He married Maxine Imler on Dec. 20, 1940. She died on May 28, 1982.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, David and Anna Kemerly of Avilla and Steve and Rita Kemerly of LaOtto; a daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and William Gay of Avilla; his grandchildren and their spouses, David and Georgia Kemerly Jr., Linda and Bret Ramsay, Kirk and Kim Gay, Chad and Kristy Gay, Jamie and Pam Kemerly and Crystal Sobieski; 15 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Francis Winkler of Kentucky and Martha Taggert of Wisconsin.

All services will be private.

To send online condolences or to sign an online register, go to brazzellfuneralhome.com.

Barbara Renfrow

SPENCERVILLE — Barbara Ellen Renfrow, 79, of Spencerville died Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne

Mrs. Renfrow

She was born June 7, 1928, in Grover Hill, Ohio, to George Felix and Minnie Verbima (Boulenbaugh) Goings. They preceded her in death.

She married Odell Renfrow on Dec. 7, 1946, in Fort Wayne. He died Sept. 23, 1997.

Surviving are five sons, Lynn Renfrow of Auburn, Loyed Renfrow of Fort Wayne, Allen Renfrow of Harlan, David Renfrow of New Haven and Terry Renfrow of Auburn; seven daughters, Sandra Renfrow, Jannie Renfrow and Julie Shaffer, all of Spencerville, Kathy Maldeney and Margaret Amstutz, both of Auburn, Janice Strachan of Waterloo and Minnie Dady of Butler; 24 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; a brother, Dennis D. Goings of Fort Wayne; and a sister, Sylvia Cearbaugh of Orland.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Herschel and Lloyd Goings.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville, Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to American Cancer Society (Paulding County, Ohio), 111 E. Ludwig, Suite 105, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Helen Wunderlin

AUBURN — Helen (Thomas) Wunderlin, 89, died Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Wunderlin

Mrs. Wunderlin was born Nov. 3, 1918, in rural DeKalb County. She graduated from Butler High School in 1936. She worked as a machine operator at Rieke Corp. for 24 years, retiring in 1984.

She was a member of Auburn Presbyterian Church, Women of the Moose Chapter 261, Eagles Auxiliary 1357 and American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Surviving are a son, James L. Thomas of Columbus, Ohio; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Patty and Ralph Aalders of Auburn, Nancy L. Deardorf of Auburn and Jerilyn and Robert Farver of Ashley; six stepdaughters and their husbands, Patricia and Jim Stillwell, Barbara and Richard Snider, Jean Mackin and Robert and Mary Brown, all of Fort Wayne, Dodie and Mike Harper of Thornton, Colo., and Rose and Byron Schutt of Auburn; a brother, Frank Walter of Hamilton; a sister, Ruth Smith of Auburn; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; 23 stepgrand-children; and 28 stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grover E. and Olive Edna Farver Walter; her first husband, Wayne D. Thomas, in January 2007; her second husband, Donald E. Wunderlin, in 1985; a stepson, Donald Wunderlin Jr.; a stepdaughter, Carol Hill; three brothers, Howard, Ford and Marion Walter; a granddaughter, Mary Ann Aalders; and a stepgrand-daughter, Michelle Sheetz.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Monday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Marie Ireland

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, Ark. — Marie Ireland, 87, formerly of Auburn, died peacefully in her home Wednesday morning, Jan. 23, 2008.

She was born Feb. 11, 1920, in Fontainebleau, France, to Emma and Victor Wolff. She came to the United States in 1951.

In 1952, she married Humber R. Ireland of Toledo, Ohio. Together they raised their family living in Ohio and eventually retired to Wellston, Mich.

After the death of her husband in 1990, Mrs. Ireland moved to Auburn to be closer to her children. She attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Auburn.

In 2003, she moved to Hot Springs Village, Ark., where she lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Michele and Terry Pyle. While in Arkansas, she attended Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Hot Springs Village.

Surviving are her children and their spouses, Thomas Ireland, Christine Ireland, Michele and Terry Pyle, Anne and Robert Lindley and Mary Ellen and John Schimmoller; her grandchildren and a spouse, Vanessa and Scott Lenhardt, Amber Mahaffey, Justin Ireland, Dylan Mahaffey, Patrick Boehmer, Sean Boehmer and Ethan Schimmoller; and two great-grandchildren, Jacqueline and Yvette.

A wake service will be Monday at 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 295 Balearic Road, Hot Springs Village, Ark.

A funeral mass will be at the church Tuesday at 9 a.m. Burial will be in Auburn.

Memorials are to Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn.

Rita Kelley

GARRETT — Rita K. (Bir) Kelley, 85, of Garrett died at 8:05 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, in Miller's Merry Manor, Garrett.

Mrs. Kelley

Mrs. Kelley was a 1940 graduate of St. Paul Catholic High School and the St. Joseph School of Nursing in 1943. She retired as a registered nurse from Marion General Hospital and worked at the Veterans Administration for five years before serving in the Army Nurse Corps in World War II.

She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church where she served in the Rosary Society, Daughters of Isabella and was in charge of funeral dinners.

She volunteered at St. Martin DePores and was a member of the Catholic Nurses Association.

She was born Oct. 24, 1922, to Herman and Oliva (Stein) Bir in Lima, Ohio.

She married James F. Kelley on Feb. 7, 1948. He preceded her in death on Oct. 2, 2004.

Surviving are four daughters and two sons-in-law, Janet Marie and Ian Martin of Fulshear, Texas, Mary Frances and John Rostorfer of Garrett, and Marie Teresa Keller and Kathryn Mary Kelley, both of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, James J. and Patricia Kelley of Griffith and Thomas M. and Kathryn Kelley of Salisbury, N.C.; a brother and sister-in-law, Thomas A. and Barbara Bir of San Antonio, Texas; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Mary Agnes and Joseph McAfee of Bryan, Ohio, and Cecilia and John Collins of Marion; 11 grandchildren, Gillian Adamson, Elizabeth Martin, Michael Kelley, Shannon and Kelli Rostorfer, Jessica Best, Marc Keller, Melissa Keller, Erin and Quinn Kelley and Kristine Kelley; three great-grandchildren, Takyus and Reign Best and Logan Adamson; and two sisters-in-law, Carolyn Bir of Tuscon, Ariz., and Maryanna Bir of New Castle.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Herman, Richard and Edward Bir, and two grandsons, Benjamin and Sam Kelley.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Monday at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1009 Kem Road, Marion, with the Rev. Richard Weisenberger officiating. Burial will be at Estates of Serenity, Marion.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, with a vigil service at 2:30 p.m.

Memorials may be directed to St. Martin DePores.

Condolences may be made at www.nswcares.com.

Barbara Longbrake

SPENCERVILLE — Barbara Ellen Longbrake, 82, of Spencerville, died Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, at Parkview North Hospice in Fort Wayne.

She worked on sub assembly for Bomar Inc. from 1969 to 1990 and was a member of the Spencerville United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women's Group.

She moved to Spencerville when she was 6 years old and had lived there ever since. She graduated from Spencerville High School in 1943. She enjoyed spending time with her pet dog, Katie.

She was born Oct. 8, 1925, in Auburn to the late Arthur and Mary K. (Weidner) Longbrake.

Surviving are a sister-in-law, Shirley Markle of Fort Wayne; a brother-in-law, Glenn Moore of Butler; nieces and nephews and their spouses, Cheri and Dan Bushee of Spencerville, Debra and Gene Rose of Dayton, Ohio, Steve and Deb Howey of Garrett, Patti and Jim Johnston of Auburn, Don Moore of Waynedale, Bob and Diane Moore of Georgia, Deloris and Levy Davis of Bowling Green, Ky., Cheryl and Dennis Zeisloft of Butler, Matt Markle of Fort Wayne, Melanie and Danny Barkley of Fort Wayne and Mark and Misty Markle of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Marjorie Howey and Jean Moore, and a brother, Henry "Sonny" Markle.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Spencerville United Methodist Church with Pastor Gerry Weesner officiating. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials are to the Spencerville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Spencerville, IN 46788.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being republished with revised information about relatives.*

Helen Wunderlin

AUBURN — Helen (Thomas) Wunderlin, 89, died Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Wunderlin

Mrs. Wunderlin was born Nov. 3, 1918, in rural DeKalb County. She graduated from Butler High School in 1936. She worked as a machine operator at Rieke Corp. for 24 years, retiring in 1984.

She was a member of Auburn Presbyterian Church, Women of the Moose Chapter 261, Eagles Auxiliary 1357 and American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Surviving are a son, James L. Thomas of Columbus, Ohio; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Patty and Ralph Aalders of Auburn, Nancy L. Deardorf of Auburn and Jerilyn and Robert Farver of Ashley; six stepdaughters and their husbands, Patricia and Jim Stillwell, Barbara and Richard Schneider, Jean Mackin and Robert and Mary Brown, all of Fort Wayne, Dodie and Mike Harper of Thornton, Colo., and RoseAnn and Byron Schutt of Auburn; a brother, Frank Walter of Hamilton; a sister, Ruth Smith of Auburn; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; 23 stepgrandchildren; and 28 stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grover E. and Olive Edna Farver Walter; her first husband, Wayne D. Thomas, in January 2007; her second husband, Donald E. Wunderlin, in 1985; a stepson, Donald Wunderlin Jr.; a stepdaughter, Carol Hill; three brothers, Howard, Ford and Marion Walter; a granddaughter, Mary Ann Rynearson; and a stepgrandaughter, Michelle Sheetz.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Monday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Baseball, hard work and family

Al Grogg's grocery, gas station defined all-American business

BY VIV ROSSMURR
vivanr@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — In the past — before gas stations became the sleek automated, cold and impersonal pumping stations they are now — there were places like Grogg's Standard Station and Grocery in Auburn.

It was a neighborhood gathering place where clerks not only pumped the gas and checked the oil, but an auto mechanic and garage were located on-site and customers could shop for groceries, produce, meat and select goodies from a well-stocked candy counter.

It seemed everyone in Auburn knew owner Alva — or "Al" or "Alvie" — Grogg.

Al Grogg knew everyone, knew their financial situations, knew their children and their grandchildren. Many times he stepped in and guided and mentored them as if they were his own.

Al owned the station for 37 years, much of that time with his brother, Ed Grogg.

An accomplished baseball player and coach, a wise, generous and compassionate businessman, a dedicated father and husband and hard worker — Al Grogg was all that and more.

When he died Dec. 3, 2007, at the age of 83, members of his family were amazed at the number of people who came forward to testify to Al's character. Many shared how Al had given them credit, groceries and gas when they had no money.

A strong work ethic was instilled in Al and siblings Ruth, Ed, Edgar and Bessie by their parents, Alva F. and Ada (Smurr) Grogg. As a teen, Al worked at an Auburn drug store. He toyed with the idea of becoming a pharmacist and following in the footsteps of his older twin brothers, Ed and Edgar, who were chemists and worked in the oil industry. Although he never became a pharmacist, he served as a pharmacist's mate in Guam during World War II when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

His passion and ability for baseball started at a very young age when he was recruited to pitch on a DeKalb County team against older teammates — some of them adults — with the team often winning due to Al's talent for striking out batters.

Al later played baseball for his Navy fleet team, oftentimes with pros. He was so good that the Navy delayed his discharge so the team could beat some additional rivals.

Because he never had been a smoker or one to spend his money frivolously, Al saved a portion of his military pay and used it to start his own business — the first Grogg's Grocery and Station at S.R. 8 and C.R. 35 — the same year he returned to the States and married his high school sweetheart, Ruth Mitchner, in 1947.

It wasn't long until he had saved enough money to purchase some land and build a new Groggs Grocery and Station further to the west on Seventh Street in Auburn. The couple lived above the station in an apartment with their first three children until 1959, when they bought a farm on C.R. 40.

All of the Grogg children grew up working at the store and said there was never a question of "if" they would attend college — just a question of where, according to daughter Tara Agosti. All four graduated from college debt-free, largely because of their father's planning and saving, she said.

"When working in the store, dad taught us not to judge a customer by an outward appearance," Agosti said.

"He did not hesitate to extend credit, numerous times not seeing the debt paid off."

"He always trusted people," Ruth Grogg said. "When he sold the station, there were still a lot of people 'on the books,' but he just let it go."

"It was a ma-and-pa kind of place, very cozy," said Barb Metz, who worked for Al as a cashier.

"He was straightforward — you always knew where you stood with him," Metz said. "He was down-to-earth and funny. He called me 'Bullet Barb' because he said I moved so fast."

Al didn't care for people who put on airs. "'Ten-cent millionaires,' he called them," son Ted Grogg said. "He often said they weren't fooling anyone but themselves."

For many years, he gave groceries to his church for various social events, but only on the condition that his gifts remain anonymous.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In this photo taken three years ago, Ruth and Al Grogg celebrate their 80th birthdays, which were only a month apart. Mr. Grogg was a well-respected and longtime Auburn businessman. He died Dec. 3 of at the age of 83.

Harvey Penland, who eventually bought Grogg's business, said he and Al had an ongoing 20-year joke.

"He would always ask to borrow money when he saw me," Penland said, laughing. "And I would always say, 'I'll give you the money if you give me the map of where all your money is buried.'"

When he opened his business in 1947, Al purchased a used Plymouth pickup truck, which he continued to drive until he sold the business in 1984. The family still owns the truck.

Even though Al closed only three days of the year — Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas — and worked every day but two Sundays a month — he always found time to take his four children, Tim, Ted, Tara and Tami, to the park and play ball. He coached Little League baseball in Auburn — winning 12 consecutive championships — and after he finished coaching, served on the Auburn youth baseball board. He was inducted into the Northeast Indiana Little League Baseball Hall of Fame. He also sponsored youth basketball in Auburn.

"Although his memories include the times the kids won, what he really enjoyed was watching the kids develop their skills and abilities," Agosti remembers. "He often defended and helped kids whose parents wouldn't spend any time with them."

Neighborhood children often hung around the store to take advantage of Al's love of candy and his generosity and propensity to hand out sweets as a token of friendship.

Al Grogg taught his family to love and respect others, but in particular, their mother.

"There was never any doubt of his priorities and love for our Mom," Agosti said. "Respect and obedience for her was a mandate. Mom was his lifelong partner."

Richard Trowbridge

KENDALLVILLE — Richard Lynn Trowbridge, 60, of Kendallville, died Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, at the Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Mr. Trowbridge worked at No-Sag and Quick Lube, both in Kendallville. He served in the U.S. Navy and served his country for eight years during the Vietnam Era.

He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1966. He was an avid reader. He loved his dog, Ty, and riding his Silver Wing motorcycle.

He was born in Kendallville on Jan. 18, 1948, to Cecil George Trowbridge Jr. and Carolyn Jean (Wolf) Trowbridge.

He is survived by a son, Jeremy Trowbridge; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Pam and Steve Munger of Garrett, LuAnn Rathke of Albion and Cathy and Wally Brellenthin of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Brenda Trowbridge of the state of Washington; an aunt and her husband, Mary Lou and Don Smart of Kendallville; an uncle and his wife, Tom and Vonetta Trowbridge of Churubusco; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents and his sister, Cindy Weber, who died in 2007.

Services will be Monday at 3 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville, with the Rev. Bob Shriner officiating. Burial will be at a later date at Sweet Cemetery in Albion.

Calling will be Monday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent to the family at the Web site www.hitefuneralhome.com

Martha Mansfield

KENDALLVILLE — Martha E. Mansfield, 95, of Kendallville died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Mansfield was a homemaker and had worked on the family farm. She also worked at Essex Wire in Ligonier and then in Topeka for 13 years.

In her free time she loved to quilt and put puzzles together.

She was born on June 1, 1912, in Wolf Lake to Hugh W. and Bessie L. (Grubb) Hickman. She married Lawrence M. Mansfield on Sept. 17, 1929, in Albion. He died Oct. 11, 1973.

Surviving are a son and his companion, Steve Mansfield of Avilla and Becky Christensen of Garrett; a daughter and her companion, Lucy Marie Mansfield and John Mertz, both of Corunna; five grandchildren, Dale Potts, Robert Potts, Melissa Mertz, David Mertz and Jennifer Mertz; four great-grandchildren, Natosha Potts, Kylee Potts, Chad Potts and Zachary Potts; and a brother and sister-in-law, Hugh "Mutt" and Thelma Hickman of Albion.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a grandson, Paul E. Potts; two brothers, Jim Hickman and Arthur Hickman; and a sister, Mae Bailey.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Burial will be at Sweet Cemetery near Albion.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Charles Draper

GARRETT — Charles G. "Chuck" Draper, 80, of Garrett died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at 8 a.m. at his home.

Mr. Draper

Mr. Draper worked in the maintenance department for the Fort Wayne City Utilities Department for 32 years, retiring in 1989. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II.

He was born May 3, 1927, in Fort Wayne to John P. and Emma E. (Stroub) Draper.

On June 26, 1948, in Fort Wayne, he married Barbara J. Petterson. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Linda S. Stahl of Fort Wayne, Michelle M. and Jerry Shroads of Garrett and Janet and Phil Henschen of Garrett; two sons and daughters-in-law, Kenneth L. and Karin Draper of Scottsville, Ky., and John A. and Mary Draper of Avilla; two sisters, Maxine Shaw of Fort Wayne and Marie Robert of Anderson; 15 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Bud Brecht, Raymond Draper, Carl Draper and William Draper.

Services will be Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Military honors will follow the service at 6 p.m.

Calling will be Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. in the funeral home, with Masonic rites at 4:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the Auburn Masonic Lodge.

To send condolences or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Robert Wagner

ANGOLA — Robert F. Wagner, 89, of Angola died Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mr. Wagner was a switchman for General Telephone, retiring June 12, 1997, after 55 years. He served in the U.S.

He was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, the Angola American Legion Post. No. 31, and C.W.A., where he had served as president. He enjoyed farming, baseball, antique tractors and being with his grandchildren.

He was born Aug. 4, 1918, in DeKalb County to John and Mae (Miller) Wagner. Both preceded him in death. He married Charlene Milleman on May 16, 1964. She survives in Angola.

He is also survived by three sons and a daughter-in-law, Nick Wagner of Auburn, Jim Wagner of Fort Wayne, and John and Renee Wagner of Angola; a daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Rocky Delaney of Angola; six grandchildren, Amy Morton, Karrie Fisher, David Delaney, Rae Harrel, and Sara and Samantha Wagner; and five great-grandchildren, Carson and Parker Morton, Dalton and Anna Wagner, and Zoanne Harrel.

He was also preceded in death by a son, William Wagner; a grandson, Joshua Wagner; a daughter-in-law, Karla Wagner; a sister, Eunice VanPelt; and two brothers, Lenice Wagner and his twin, Norbert Peter Wagner.

Services will be Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola, with the Rev. Philip Schreider officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola, with graveside military services by the Angola American Legion Post No. 31.

Calling will be today from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola, with a prayer service at 7:30.

Memorials are to the Leukemia Society of America, or the donor's choice.

Dorothey Deetz

AUBURN — Dorothey C. Deetz, 55, of Auburn died Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, at her home.

Born in Auburn, Mrs. Deetz was the night auditor at the LaQuinta Hotel. She was a member and past Senior Regent of the Women of the Moose and a member of American Legion Post 97 Auxiliary and the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Surviving are her husband, Max Deetz of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Michelle Demint of Afghanistan; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Frances and George Abel of Auburn, Martha and Bill Patterson of Springfield, Ohio, and Helen and Don Munoz of Detroit, Mich.; a brother and sister-in-law, Sam and Sherry Wise; and three grandchildren, Hope, Annika and Erika Demint of Afghanistan.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to American Legion Post 97 Auxiliary.

Ronald Fuleki Sr.

HAMILTON — Ronald Lee Fuleki Sr., 65, of Hamilton died unexpectedly Monday, Jan. 28, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital Heart Center in Fort Wayne due to heart complications.

Mr. Fuleki Sr.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, mowing his lawn, riding his go-cart and quad runner, and spending time with family and friends.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, a member of the Butler post of the American Legion and affiliated with Hamilton United Methodist Church, where he was active in a weekly Bible study. He was a self-taught Bible scholar and had an active voice concerning the current political system. He enjoyed his faithful golden labrador retriever.

He attended Elmhurst High School in Fort Wayne and graduated from Butler High School.

He survived a near-fatal motorcycle accident in October 1987, which left him a paraplegic and bound to a wheelchair.

He was born Ronald Lee Fulk on Nov. 19, 1942, in Butler to Bernard Fulk and Helen McDonald. In 1972 he assumed his stepfather Joseph's last name of Fuleki.

He married Gloria Lynne Myers on March 6, 1982. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Scott Fuleki, and his fiancee, Mandy Schlemmer, and Ronald "Skip" Fuleki Jr. and his wife, Barb Fuleki; a daughter and son-in-law, Valerie and Scott Ervin; five grandchildren, Skyler Ervin, Taylor Ervin, Jacqueline Alexander, Tylor Ketring and Amber Fuleki; six brothers and five sisters-in-law, Emery and Karen Fuleki of Auburn, Joey and Teresa Fuleki of Fort Wayne, Gary and Marsha Fuleki of St. Joe, Dennis Fuleki, Rex and JoAnne Fulk of Holland, Ohio, and Mike and Diana Fulk of Findlay, Ohio; and a sister and brother-in-law, Dana and Brett Walters of Ada, Ohio.

One brother, Roger Fulk, preceded him in death.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in the Hamilton United Methodist Church. The Rev. Eric Stoops and the Rev. Herschal Murray will officiate. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Merle Wagner

AUBURN — Merle William Wagner, 65, of Auburn died Monday, Jan. 28, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home of Auburn.

Mr. Wagner

Mr. Wagner graduated from Riverdale High School of St. Joe in 1960 as the class valedictorian. He attended Defiance College and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965. He then attended the University of Saint Francis, receiving his Master of Science in Education degree in 1969. He attended Columbia Pacific University, receiving a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration and Education on April 20, 1984.

He worked at Cherrygarth Farms, helping on the family farm raising shorthorn cattle until 1980. He was a physics, math and driver education teacher at Crestview High School in Convoy, Ohio, from 1965-68. He then moved to Butler and was a physics, math and computer teacher at Eastside High School from 1968-2001, retiring in 2001.

While teaching at Eastside, he worked for Cherrygarth Farms Software Inc. as president and writer of farm software from 1981-1990. In 2001, he became an ESL teacher at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne for five years.

He was a member of Concordia Lutheran Church of Fort Wayne and served as an usher. He also was a member of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association, the DeKalb County Retired Teachers Association and the Creative Writing Group at Eckhart Public Library. He enjoyed writing and has written books entitled "Keepsakes of the Heart: An Anthology of Special Times and Holidays" and "Adam's Yoke."

He was born Aug. 15, 1942, in Auburn to Lawrence William and Helen Matilda (Humbert) Wagner. They preceded him in death.

He married Betty L. Etzler on Aug. 13, 1967, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Convoy, Ohio. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer Beth and Juan Carlos Alvarez of Auburn; one granddaughter, Angelica Maria Alvarez of Auburn; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Keith and Rose Wagner of Homestead, Fla., and the Rev. Joseph Wagner and Carolyn Wagner of Thorntown; one sister and brother-in-law, Amy and Maurice Houser of Pleasant Lake; 19 nieces and nephews and their spouses; and 30 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Pastor Keith M. Wendt will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Eastside Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 395, Butler, IN 46721; Concordia Lutheran Church, 4245 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46815; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Helen Carlin

GARRETT — Helen A. Carlin, 102, died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, at 2:30 a.m. at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mrs. Carlin was a teacher for the Garrett public schools for six years, then worked as a payroll clerk for Creek Chub Bait Co. in Garrett for 20 years, retiring in 1972.

Mrs. Carlin

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett and the Rosary Society.

She was born Feb. 9, 1905, in Butler, to Frank and Della (Hiner) McDonald.

On Nov. 23, 1929, she married Joseph M. Carlin in Chicago. He died in January 1952.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, William J. and Mary L. Carlin of Garrett; three grandsons, Joe Carlin of Garrett and Terry Bobay and John Bobay, both of Fort Wayne; two granddaughters, Tina Davis of Garrett and Peggy Nicola of Fort Wayne; and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Joan M. Bobay.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 3-6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with a rosary service at 5:30 p.m. Additional calling will be Saturday from 10:30-11 a.m. in the church.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneral-home.org.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to include new information about relatives.*

Dorothey Deetz

AUBURN — Dorothey C. Deetz, 55, of Auburn died Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Deetz was a nurse's aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital for several years before working as the night auditor at the LaQuinta Hotel. She was a member and past Senior Regent of the Women of the Moose and a member of American Legion Post 97 Auxiliary and the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

She graduated from DeKalb High School and from Indiana Wesleyan University, Fort Wayne, with an associate's degree in business administration.

She was born Sept. 6, 1952, in Auburn to Charlotte L. (Goodacre) Wise and Ira Wise Jr. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are her husband, Max Deetz of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Doug DeMint, serving in the Army in Afghanistan, and Michelle DeMint of Knoxville, Tenn.; three grandchildren, Hope, Annika and Erika DeMint of Knoxville; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Frances and George Abel of Auburn, Marty and Bill Patterson of Springfield, Ohio, and Helen and Don Munoz of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; a brother and sister-in-law, Sam and Sherry Wise of Sierra Vista, Ariz.; and

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with John Scott officiating. Burial will be at a later date.

Calling will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to American Legion Post 97 Auxiliary or the Moose Auxiliary.

Rosalie Carter

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. — Rosalie B. "Rose" Carter, 65, of Brooksville, Fla., died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, at her home.

She was born in Churubusco and moved from Auburn to Florida 20 years ago.

She attended Anchor Baptist Church and Churubusco High School. She was employed at Parrott Middle School and Star Education as a teacher's aide. She retired from the Hernando school system in 2005. She enjoyed crafts, woodworking, gardening, ceramics and collecting dolls.

Surviving are her husband, Jack Carter of Brooksville; three daughters, Cindy L. Healy of Garrett, Brenda L. Maugherman of Zephyrhills, Fla., and Donita J. Womack of Spring Hill, Fla.; a son, Russell Womack Jr. of Garrett; two brothers, Thomas Garrison of Angola and Norman Garrison of Waterloo; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Perry A. and Elma V. Garrison.

A memorial service will be Sunday at 1 p.m. at New Life Ministries, 130 N. Randolph St., Garrett.

Brewer & Sons Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, 1190 S. Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34601, is handling arrangements.

Essie Morris

BUTLER — Essie E. Morris, 79, of Butler died Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb Health Care Center in Butler.

She worked as a waitress, nurse's aide and housekeeper.

She was born March 21, 1928, in Murray, Ky., to Lanis and Beatrice (Hill) Phillips. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are three sons, Bobby Hodges, Ronald Hodges and Darrell Morris, all of Murray, Ky.; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Thomas Hodges and Roy Morris, a daughter, Judy Thorne; two brothers, Earl and Robert Phillips, and two sisters, Bessie Parrish and Louise Phillips.

Services will be Friday at 1 p.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler with Pastor Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Erma Hulbert

AUBURN — Erma J. Hulbert, 76, formerly of Butler died Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Hulbert retired from Tri-Wall after 20 years of service.

Mrs. Hulbert

She was born Sept. 2, 1931, in Defiance, Ohio, to Floyd and Laverne (Weaner) Rickerd.

She married Glen Hulbert on Feb. 6, 1954, in Butler. He died March 13, 1991.

Surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Robert and Nan Hulbert of Butler, Duane Hulbert of Waterloo, Steven and Kathy Hulbert of St. Joe and William and Cathy Hulbert of Butler; three daughters and a son-in-law, Marsha and Ken Henry of Avilla, Carolyn Trowbridge of Edon, Ohio, and Darlynne Hulbert of Auburn; three brothers, Calvin Rickerd of Chicago, Jim Rickerd of South Carolina and Rick Rickerd of Angola; four stepbrothers, Arlie Hulbert of Fort Wayne, Lloyd Hulbert of Hamilton, Darrell Hulbert of Butler and Ronald Hulbert of Butler; a stepsister, Lola Rickerd of Chicago; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Esther Hulbert, and three stepbrothers, Olen, Loren and Carl Hulbert.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at the Butler Assembly of God Church, with Pastor Matthew Snodderly officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-8 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Butler.

Deborah Poffenberger

KENDALLVILLE — Deborah L. Poffenberger, 53, of Kendallville died at 2:38 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, at Parkview Hospital.

She grew up in Fort Wayne and had also lived in Huntertown and Columbia City.

Mrs. Poffenberger

She graduated from Ivy Tech School of Nursing and had been employed as an LPN at Parkview Hospital for two years, Byron Health Center for seven years, The Oaks Living Center for a year and lastly at Columbia City Nursing Home for two years.

She was born Aug. 3, 1954, in Ashley to Ned and Berdena (Wiler) Sanders.

Surviving are two sons, Shawn Kleeberg and his wife, Marissa, of Churubusco and Shannon Kleeberg and his companion, Cassie Thompson, of Columbia City; two daughters and sons-in-law, Starr and Eric Newman of Fort Wayne and Summer and Chris Plaskewicz of Huntertown; 10 grandchildren; her mother and stepfather, Berdena and Dean Norris of Auburn; a brother, Douglas Sanders of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Linda and Brian Norris of Crawfordsville and Patricia and Todd Brown of Fort Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Services will be at 5 p.m. Saturday at Smith & Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City, with Pastor Don Shankster officiating. Burial will take place at a later date at Nolt Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to smithandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Giovanni Consolino

AUBURN — Giovanni "John" Consolino, 85, of Auburn died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

Mr. Consolino

Mr. Consolino was a captain in the Army during World War II and served in the Mediterranean theater of operations. He retired from Belden Wire & Cable Co. in Richmond after 41 years of service with the title of director of manufacturing. He was known as "Popa," "God Father" and "Snow Bird." He loved to spend time on the golf course and with his family.

He was the son of Eustachio and Camilla Consolino of Italy.

Surviving are his wife, Betty, of Auburn; two stepdaughters, Helen Reimers of Richmond and Michelle Tejki of Auburn; two stepsons, Mark Medley of New Castle and Mike Medley of Colorado; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Geneva Benge; two brothers, Tony of Michigan and Joe of Richmond; one sister, Lucy Consolino Moore of Richmond; and a stepson, Paul Benge of Richmond.

Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church, 710 N. A Street, Richmond. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 5-8 p.m. at Stegall-Berheide-Orr Funeral Home, 222 N. 10th St., Richmond.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society, 5221 U.S. 6, Butler, IN 46721.

Marjorie Jacobus

AUBURN — Marjorie Delayne Jacobus, 86, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008, at 3:10 p.m. in Betz Nursing Home of Auburn.

Mrs. Jacobus retired from Rieke Corp. in 1984 after 45 years of service. She also taught youth swimming classes at the Auburn YMCA for a number of years.

She graduated from Ashley High School in 1939 and was a member of Ashley United Methodist Church.

She was born Aug. 18, 1921, in Fairfield Township in DeKalb County to Hershel and Jennie (Hathaway) Pressler.

Surviving are four nephews, Scott, Roger, Roderick and Kevin Pressler; 10 great-nieces and nephews; and 13 great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Donald Pressler and Marlo Pressler; and a niece, Judith (Pressler) Hasselman.

In 1978, she arranged to donate her body to the Anatomical Education Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

There will be no calling. A memorial service will be held at Fairfield Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials are to the Three Rivers Visiting Dog Club, 1937 Kendawa Drive, Suite 201, Fort Wayne, IN 46817, and to the Ashley United Methodist Church.

Kathleen Sullivan

BRISTOL — Kathleen Kelly Sullivan, 53, of Bristol, died Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Sullivan was a teacher and spent numerous years in the Fort Wayne, South Bend and Elkhart areas teaching third- and fourth-graders.

She enjoyed walking her two dogs, planting flowers, writing to loved ones and volunteer work. She was a Big Sister for 10 years, earning the Big Sister of the Year Award in 1996. She devoted much time to Kiwanis and St. Virginia's Adult Basic Education and was a distinguished Toastmaster.

She earned a bachelor of science degree in elementary education at Indiana University in 1978 and a master of arts degree in elementary education and early childhood education at Ball State University in 1983.

She was born Nov. 20, 1954, in Garrett to John "Jack" and Jacqueline (Bowers) Kelly. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in Bristol.

She married David Edward Sullivan on June 8, 1991, in Elkhart. He survives in Bristol.

Also surviving are three brothers, George, Vincent and James Kelly, all of Elkhart.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 411 W. Vistula, Bristol, with Father Bob VanKempen officiating. Burial will be in Immaculate Conception Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. at Stemm-Lawson-Peterson Funeral Home, 1531 Cobblestone Blvd., Elkhart. Prayer services will take place Monday and Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Susan G. Komen For The Cure or Center for Hospice & Palliative Care.

Lilly Rathert

AUBURN — Lilly Mae Rathert, 75, of Auburn died Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home of Auburn.

Mrs. Rathert was a homemaker. She was a member of the Women of the Moose of Auburn.

She was born Dec. 28, 1932, in Floyd County, Ky., to Hauley Hughes and Beatrice (Prater) Hicks. They both preceded her in death. She married Stanley W. Rathert on May 26, 1978, in Auburn. He preceded her in death Nov. 14, 1995.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Maynard and Barb Stephens of Willard, Ohio, and James R. Stephens of Auburn; two daughters and one son-in-law, Loretta Stephens and Naomi and Kevin Hoeppner, all of Auburn; one stepson, Kenneth Rathert of Auburn; 15 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Ramona Ousley, Sadie Chaffins and Evelyn Martin, all of Floyd County, Ky.; and one brother, Weddles Hicks of Floyd County.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Marlin Stephens; one daughter, Vernie Jean Tuttle; and two sisters, Betty Holden and Carol Lafferty.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

John Parsons

BIRCHWOOD, Wis. — John L. Parsons, 53, of Birchwood died Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008, at Lakeview Medical Center in Rice Lake, Wis.

Mr. Parsons had been employed at County Line Cheese (Beatrice Foods) for 19 years.

After moving to Wisconsin, he owned and operated Parson's North Star Resort in Edgewater. He had also been employed through the Township of Edgewater since 1998.

He was born Aug. 1, 1954, in Angola to LaMont "Walt" and Vanessa (Keith) Parsons. They are deceased. He married Patty Robotka on July 2, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nev. She survives in Birchwood.

Also surviving are five sons, Jeremy and Scott, both of Auburn, John and Cody, both of Birchwood, and Calvert of Rice Lake; three grandchildren, Hailey, Ryan and Caleb; a brother, Steve Parsons of Fremont; five sisters, Cheryl Schinbeckler of Henderson, Nev., Randy Collins of Auburn, Shelley Householder of Angola, Beth Goff of Lawrenceville, Ill., and Dawn of Fort Wayne; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held at Appleyard's Home for Funerals in Rice Lake.

Ilah Notestine's living faith was inspiration to others

BY WANDA YODER
lagrange@kpcnews.net

MONGO — Faith was a driving force in the life of Ilah Notestine, Mongo's honorary mayor.

The village of Mongo will miss her work in the church and community. Notestine died Thursday, Jan. 24.

Notestine's devotion to God and her church, Mongo United Methodist, grew as she matured. She played the church piano and became the church's minister of music and historian. She also served as a lay leader and member of the Mongo Methodist Women.

Her expressions of her faith extended outside the church walls as well. She was well known for her work in the community, particularly through the Mongo Lions Club. She also will be remembered for her poetry.

"I remember most her smile and how you were the only person around when you were talking to her," said Jo Gunthorp of the Mongo Lions Club.

Staying true to her nature, Notestine spent most of her time talking about people other than herself, even when she received the Mayor of Mongo honors. Notestine, who turned 80 in December, said she felt honored to receive such an award and couldn't say enough about the town of Mongo.

"It's nice it all happened," she said at the time. "I love Mongo and will do anything to make plans the way they want it. This was the first time I have ever ridden on the back of a convertible. It has been a blessing to have been a part of all of this."

At the time of her Mayor of Mongo interview, Notestine shared she had recently received a letter from a Christian girlfriend saying that her Christian faith was based on lessons Notestine taught in choir — lessons that she had shared with others.

Notestine had cancer surgery May 31. Doctors removed part of her jawbone. She explained in September that she felt good and was happy to not have had radiation or chemotherapy.

"Life has a lot of change. You learn to swing with it," Notestine said.

When she was 20, her family moved to LaGrange County. In August 1951 she married Hildon Notestine in a ceremony at Mongo United Methodist Church. Hildon was a firefighter. He died while sitting in a fire truck in July 1997.

When the young couple first started attending the Mongo church, only 17 members attended. Notestine started a choir and played the piano, performing solos and singing with the choir over the years.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Longtime Mongo resident Ilah Notestine, 80, is pictured holding the trophy she received when she was named honorary Mayor of Mongo in September 2007. Notestine died Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, at Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange.

"Her choir, the church and her family meant everything to her," her daughter, Gloria Preston of LaGrange, said.

In her younger days, Notestine drove a school bus for Mongo High School. Many in the area remember how she touched their lives. Some remember that, because of her short stature, the gas pedal had a block on it so she could reach the gas pedal and how she would visit schools teaching songs of the nation such as "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful."

Penny Hendrix of San Diego, Calif., said her grandmother always made her feel special.

"I have been away from home for over 20 years and still I received letters from Ilah once and sometimes three times a week. She kept me connected and close to my hometown. She made sure that I always new what was happening — when someone married, when a baby was born, someone was ill or the passing of someone in the community," she said.

"Her love of history was a big part of our upbringing. I believe she was a spiritual warrior and warrior for our nation. She loved our country so much," said Hendrix, who added that her 11-year-old daughter, Amanda, was to write a speech on how she would change the world. "If I were to change the world, I would give everyone my grandmother," she said.

At the Sunday worship service following her death last week, Notestine's piano remained silent and empty. The songs were sung a capella. Her choir robe was draped over the piano in her honor, and during the service each family member placed a rose in an empty vase at the piano in her honor.

At her funeral on Monday, the cherished Mayor of Mongo banner she received in September adorned her casket. She was buried in a purple choir robe from the original choir that she began more than 50 years ago.

Included inside the memorial card was a note from Notestine's hand:

"I have graduated. Praise the Lord! I want my memorial service to proclaim victory. Death was not easy. We were not created for earth only ... We were made to soar. So when you hear I am gone, 'Sing!'"

Carmilla Simmonds

STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Carmilla K. "Candy" (Morton) Simmonds, 52, of Stow Creek Township, N.J., died Saturday afternoon, Feb. 2, 2008, at Jeanes Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa., surrounded by her family.

A 1973 graduate of DeKalb High School, she was a homemaker, and her family was the center of her life. For more than nine years, she worked as a cashier in the cafeteria at Cumberland Regional High School and Upper Deerfield Township Schools in New Jersey.

Born in Montpelier, Ohio, she was the daughter of Howard J. and Mitzi Kay (Krathwohl) Morton, both of Auburn.

Also surviving are her husband of 30 years, Harry A. Simmonds; three daughters and a son-in-law, Heather E.K. and Joseph A. Pino of Winslow Township, N.J., and Tara A. Hayes and Crystal S. Simmonds, both of Stow Creek Township, N.J.; six grandchildren, Katrina E.K. Pino, Zayne J. Pino, Zander A. Pino, Arabella J. Pino, Shyla K. Hayes and Dylan R. Simmonds; a sister-in-law and her husband, Susan D. and Clint Silvers of North Carolina; and an uncle and aunt, Byron and Ellen Beck of Ohio.

A memorial service will be Friday at 11:30 a.m. in New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Ralph O. Diehl officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Freitag Funeral Home, 137 W. Commerce St., Bridgeton, N.J.

Cremation and inurnment took place at Laurel Lawn Crematory in Upper Deerfield Township, N.J.

James Berlew

BRONSON, Mich. — James R. Berlew, 67, of Bronson, Mich., died Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008, at the Community Health Center of Branch County, in Coldwater, Mich.

Mr. Berlew had retired as a dock foreman at Consolidated Freight. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and studying the Civil War.

He was born Feb. 8, 1940, in Detroit, Mich., to Eugene and Helen (Lesch) Berlew. Both preceded him in death.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jeff and Mary Berlew of Angola, and Mike Berlew of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Michele and Todd Hill of Indianapolis; five grandchildren, Logan, Katie and Lukas Berlew, and Anna and Lauren Hill; a brother, Eugene Berlew of Houghton Lake, Mich.; and his former wife and mother of his children, Yvonne Berlew of Orland.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Calling will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and an hour before the service Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Memorials are to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Service, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202, or the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Office of Institutional Advancement, 333 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-2497.

Condolences and tributes may be sent to the family at freitagfuneralhome.com.

William Kessler

CHURUBUSCO — William "Bill" Kessler, 84, of Churubusco died at 8:47 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008, at The Oaks in Columbia City. He had been in failing health for several months, and had entered the nursing home two weeks ago.

Mr. Kessler

Mr. Kessler moved to Smith Township as a child and spent most all of his adult life in the Collins and Blue Lake areas. He was a 1941 graduate of Churubusco High School.

He retired from the die casting department at General Electric in Fort Wayne after 43 years of service.

Mr. Kessler was a former member of the Churubusco Lions Club and past Lions district governor.

He enjoyed fishing, wintering in Mesa, Ariz., and loved spending time with his dog.

He was born in Auburn on March 22, 1923, to William and Mary May (Lippincott) Kessler.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Richard "Al" Fry of Columbia City; two sons and daughters-in-law, Kent and Deb Kessler of Indianapolis and Randy and Karen Kessler of Fort Wayne; his former wife, Joan (Blanchard) Kessler of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six sisters and six brothers.

There will be no services or calling.

Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco is in charge of arrangements.

Elizabeth Opper

AUBURN — Elizabeth A. "Betsy" Opper, 45, of Auburn died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Opper

Mrs. Opper was self-employed. She was an avid fisherman and loved gardening. She coached youth league girls basketball, girls softball and boys baseball. She was a member of the Auburn Elks Lodge.

She was born Sept. 21, 1962, in Auburn.

She married Ingemar "Dobie" Opper on Oct. 23, 1999, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, and he survives.

Also surviving are her mother and stepfather, Patricia and Larry Rothenhofer of Fort Wayne; her father and stepmother, Dave and Jane Carroll of Cape Canaveral, Fla.; a daughter and son-in-law, Erin and Michael Medina of Auburn; five sons, Eric Stoy of Ashley and Logan Opper, Kyle Opper, Kory Opper and Nolan Opper, all of Auburn; three grandchildren, Trae Minnich, Apollo Medina and Syerra Opper; her grandmother, Ruth Farrington of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Laura and Steve Warner of Westfield; and two stepsisters, Jill Sherlock and her husband, Kevin, of Columbus, and Cyndi Fremion of Angola.

She was preceded in death by a stepbrother, Douglas Rothenhofer.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Mount Zion Cemetery at Golden Lake.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Mary Dibble

WATERLOO — Mary Jayne Dibble, 83, died Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at her daughter's home in Waterloo.

Mrs. Dibble

Mrs. Dibble worked for Lincoln Life Insurance Co. in Fort Wayne, retiring in 1983. She was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving in the Waves during World War II. She was a member of the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She volunteered at the hospital and the Curiosity Shop. She enjoyed playing golf, bowling and gambling.

She was born Sept. 21, 1924, in Bluffton to Oris and Harriet (Flannigan) Masterson. They preceded her in death.

She married Charles Dibble on June 26, 1946, in Florida. He died Aug. 26, 1982.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Gary Dibble of Quito, Ecuador, and Bill Dibble and Sherry Lemp of Fort Wayne; two daughters and sons-in-law, Connie and Maynard Hine of Waterloo and Pat and Jim Stoops of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Masterson.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

Golda South

BUTLER — Golda M. Jones South, 93, of Butler died Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. South

Mrs. South retired from Universal Tool and Stamping. She owned her own ceramic shop and enjoyed making dolls and working in ceramics. She was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church.

She was born Aug. 2, 1914, in Waterloo to William and Edna (Bunce) Easterday.

She married Dan E. Jones on June 10, 1937, in Brookville. He preceded her in death on March 4, 1970.

She married Robert South on May 20, 1970, in De Tour Village, Mich. He died Dec. 8, 1975.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Nathalie and Richard Obendorf of Butler; a son and daughter-in-law, Jeri and Carol Jones of Butler; a daughter-in-law, Carol Jones of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren, Sunda Obendorf of Hobart, Mary Welker of Butler, Jeff Jones of Butler, Michael Jones and his wife, Teresa, of Payne, Ohio, and Jennifer Wirts and her husband, Tim, of Payne; two great-grandchildren, Kylie and Taylor Welker of Butler; and a sister, Mildred Herrick of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Jon Jones; two brothers, Cal and Willard Easterday; and a sister, Thelma Taylor.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler, with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church or DeKalb Hospice.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

John Rinehold

ANGOLA — John A. Rinehold, 42, died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, at his home in Angola.

He was born in Auburn.

Surviving are a son, Michael Rinehold of Columbia City; a daughter, Cathy Rinehold of Albion; his mother, Dolene Fisher of Angola; a brother, Jeffery Rinehold of Fort Wayne; and four grandchildren, Rayne, Alyssa, Iziah and Trenadee.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Eva Mommur, and father, Amos Rinehold.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, with calling from 1-2 p.m. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family.

Lancelot Brown

FORT WAYNE — Lancelot Bernard Brown, 67, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Hicksville, Ohio, died Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Brown

Mr. Brown retired from Dana Axle Division in Fort Wayne. He was a Golden Age Eagle member of Aerie 2556 and was an avid fisherman who had many friends. He was a 1958 graduate of Hicksville High School.

He was born July 14, 1940, in Antwerp, Ohio, to Bernard A. and Clara M. (Meyer) Brown. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Hicksville.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Dewey Harris of Auburn; a son, Larry J. Brown of Fort Wayne; two granddaughters, Paige A. Whittig of Auburn and Jamie L. Brown of Fort Wayne; a great-grandson, Brady Zuker of Fort Wayne; three brothers, Terry of Hicksville, Gary of St. Paris, Ohio, and Mike of Defiance, Ohio; four sisters, Pat Grooms of Sarasota, Fla., Diane Brickel of Hicksville, Mary Malmstrom of Waynesville, N.C., and Cindy Curry of Hicksville; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. at the Hicksville Fraternal Order of Eagles, Edgerton Street, Hicksville.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814, or a charity of the donor's choice.

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Blaine Cripe

BUTLER — Blaine A. Cripe, 46, of Butler died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, at his home.

He formerly worked at Halex in Hamilton.

He was born Oct. 18, 1961, in Garrett to Charles R. Cripe and Roszella (Rottger) Slaughter. His mother survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three brothers and a sister-in-law, Kenneth Cripe and Stanley Cripe, both of Homer, La., and Charles and Teresa Cripe of Winchester, Va.; and a sister, Christina Skinner of Camden, Ark.

There are no services.

Calling will be Thursday from 3-6 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler.

Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Memorials are to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Francis Cyran

WATERLOO — Francis M. Cyran, M.D., 55, of Waterloo died Wednesday morning, Feb. 6, 2008, in a single-vehicle accident on C.R. 27.

Mr. Cyran

He was a psychiatrist with the Northeastern Center in Auburn. He was a major in the U.S. Air Force, serving from June 1979 until June 1987.

He was born Nov. 21, 1952, in Cherry Point, N.C., to Frank and Jean (Chetney) Cyran. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Vienna, W.Va.

He married Susan Smith Cobbs on Dec. 6, 2004, at Wing Haven Nature Preserve of Angola, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Francis Michael Cyran of Galveston, Texas, and James "Jake" Cyran of Auburn; three daughters and a son-in-law, Dr. Katherine "Kate" and Dr. Mark VanPoppel of Memphis, Tenn., Elizabeth "Libby" Cyran of Indianapolis and Hannah Cyran of Auburn; three brothers, Eric Cyran of Columbus, Ohio, Mark Cyran of Houston, Texas, and Adam Cyran of Florence, S.C.; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Debbie Cyran of Vienna, W.Va., Marsha Osctrowski of Parkersburg, W.Va., and Amy and Bruce Riffle of Vienna, W.Va.; and his first wife, Linda Cyran of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Alan Cyran.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Saturday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Lyle Bricker

HARVARD, Ill. — Lyle J. Bricker, 67, of Harvard, Ill., died Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2008, at Centegra Memorial Medical Center in Woodstock, Ill., surrounded by his family and friends.

Mr. Bricker was the founder and owner of Ray-Tech Co. in Wheeling, Ill. He enjoyed literature and wood carving. He loved being a woodsman and enjoyed fishng and campfires. He hosted a popular annual event for all his friends and family, calling it "The Great Smokeout Wild Game Feast Weekend."

He was born May 12, 1940, in DeKalb County to James L. and Lavon (Thompson) Bricker. They preceded him in death.

He married Janet Smith on April 6, 1961, in Berwyn, Ill. She survives.

Aso surviving are a son, Lyle J. Bricker Jr.; two daugthers and sons-in-law, Lorinda Bricker-Kiwior and her husband, Kenneth, and Autumn Joy and Joseph Ervin; a brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Barbara Bricker; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Dorothy and Howard Troyer and Nancy and Marion Carper.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Schneider, Leucht, Merwin & Cooney Funeral Home, 1211 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock, Ill. Pastor David Cooper will officiate. Burial will be in McHenry County Memorial Park Cemetery in Woodstock.

Calling will be Saturday from 9-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct the day of the funeral service.*

John Parsons

BIRCHWOOD, Wis. — John L. Parsons, 53, of Birchwood died Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008, at Lakeview Medical Center in Rice Lake, Wis.

Mr. Parsons had been employed at County Line Cheese (Beatrice Foods) for 19 years.

After moving to Wisconsin, he owned and operated Parson's North Star Resort in Edgewater. He had also been employed through the Township of Edgewater since 1998.

He was born Aug. 1, 1954, in Angola to LaMont "Walt" and Vanessa (Keith) Parsons. They are deceased. He married Patty Robotka on July 2, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nev. She survives in Birchwood.

Also surviving are five sons, Jeremy and Scott, both of Auburn, John and Cody, both of Birchwood, and Calvert of Rice Lake; three grandchildren, Hailey, Ryan and Caleb; a brother, Steve Parsons of Fremont; five sisters, Cheryl Schinbeckler of Henderson, Nev., Randy Collins of Auburn, Shelley Householder of Angola, Beth Goff of Lawrenceville, Ill., and Dawn of Fort Wayne; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Appleyard's Home for Funerals in Rice Lake with the Rev. Jeff Vesta officiating.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

THE EVENING STAR
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Man dies in crash

Waterloo victim was psychiatrist at Northeastern Center

WATERLOO — A rural Waterloo man died early this morning in a one-vehicle crash near his home, DeKalb County Police said.

Francis M. Cyran, M.D., 56, of the 2100 block of C.R. 27, Waterloo, died as a result of head and facial trauma, according to a news release.

Cyran's 1996 Ford Explorer hit a utility pole at 2:14 a.m. in the 2300 block of C.R. 27, just north of U.S. 6 and about one-half mile south of his home.

Police said Cyran was driving northbound when his sport-utility vehicle went off the right side of C.R. 27. He apparently overcorrected and lost control of the vehicle. It slid sideways, crossing the road and striking a utility pole on the west side of the highway. Police said Cyran was pronounced dead at the scene.

Cyran, a psychiatrist, is a staff member of the Northeastern Center mental health agency, with an office in Angola.

Carl Zimmerman, president of the Northeastern Center board of directors, reacted to Cyran's death this morning.

"It is truly a tragedy, and I am sure he touched many a life in a positive way. We will certainly miss his services," Zimmerman said.

The Waterloo Marshal's Department, Waterloo Fire Department, Indiana State Police and DeKalb EMS assisted county police at the scene.

DeKalb County Police officers Tony M. Lung and Jeremy Western investigated the crash.

Betty Koos

VAN WERT, Ohio — Betty G. Koos, 84, of Van Wert died at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008, at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, Ohio.

Mrs. Koos was born Jan. 22, 1924, in Center Township, Mercer County, Ohio, to Robert and Ferry (Fast) Roth.

Surviving are four daughters and three sons-in-law, Loretta and Stephen Markward of Van Wert, Vicki and Bob Hart and Debbie Koos, all of Kendallville, and Lisa and Joe Ridenour of Corunna; a son and daughter-in-law, Brent and Elaine Koos of Stanwood, Wash.; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Billie and Marvin Fisher and Kitty Schaffner, all of Van Wert, and Shirley DeSanto of Gatlinburg, Tenn.; a sister-in-law, Mary Walters of Van Wert; 17 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Patricia Kline; two brothers, Jack Roth and David Walters; and a grandson, Zachary Markward.

Services will be at 3 p.m. today at Brickner Funeral Home in Van Wert with Father Mike Zacharias officiating.

Calling will be from noon to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Council on Aging.

Condolences may be sent online to www.bricknerfuneralhome.com.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being republished to include an additional surviving relative. We apologize for the omission.*

Dr. Francis Cyran

WATERLOO — Francis M. Cyran, M.D., 55, died Wednesday morning, Feb. 6, 2008, in a single-vehicle accident on C.R. 27.

Dr. Cyran

Dr. Cyran was a psychiatrist with the Northeastern Center in Auburn. He was a major in the U.S. Air Force, serving from June 1979 until June 1987.

He was born Nov. 21, 1952, in Cherry Point, N.C., to Frank and Jean (Chetney) Cyran. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Vienna, W.Va.

He married Susan Smith Cobbs on Dec. 6, 2004, at Wing Haven Nature Preserve of Angola, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Francis Michael Cyran of Galveston, Texas, and James "Jake" Cyran of Auburn; three daughters and a son-in-law, Dr. Katherine "Kate" and Dr. Mark VanPoppel of Memphis, Tenn., Elizabeth "Libby" Cyran of Indianapolis and Hannah Cyran of Auburn; a stepdaughter, Jordan Cobbs, at home; three brothers, Eric Cyran of Columbus, Ohio, Mark Cyran of Houston, Texas, and Adam Cyran of Florence, S.C.; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Debbie Cyran of Vienna, W.Va., Marsha Osctrowski of Parkersburg, W.Va., and Amy and Bruce Riffle of Vienna, W.Va.; and his first wife, Linda Cyran of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Alan Cyran.

Services will be today at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate.

Calling will be today from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Ruby Peck

CORUNNA — Ruby A. Pearson Peck, 86, of Corunna died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, at her home with her family at her side.

Mrs. Peck

Mrs. Peck had lived in the area for 49 years, coming from West Virginia. She was a homemaker.

She sang in church since her childhood. While living in West Virginia, she had a radio program with her husband, Mack Pearson.

She was born Nov. 24, 1921, in Honaker, Va., to Ellis and Ruth (Miller) Peck.

She married Mack Pearson on Oct. 31, 1937, in Virginia. He preceded her in death on Dec. 20, 1993. She then married Estel C. Peck on Sept. 7, 1996, in Lebanon, Tenn. He preceded her in death on March 22, 1999.

Surviving are five daughters and four sons-in-law, Maxine Compton of Kendallville, Debi and Palmer Smith of South Milford, Darlene and Ray Pierce of Matoka, W.Va., Cindy and Bob Ransom of Adrian, Mich., and Barbara and Marshall Pierce of Wolcottville; four sons and three daughters-in-law, Garnet Pearson of Maiden, N.C., Grover and Vickie Pearson of Stanley, N.C., Jerry and Linda Pearson of Corunna, and Tony and Lauretta Pearson of Kendallville; 41 grandchildren; 103 great-grandchildren; 18 great-great grandchildren; one sister, Mahala Hackler of Florida; and one brother, Henry Peck of Bristol, Tenn.

She was preceded in death by three sons, Luther Pearson, Kent Pearson and Gregory Pearson, and one brother, Clyde Peck.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at the True Church of God in Jesus Name, 2664 S. Lima Road, Kendallville, with Pastor Howard Stanley officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery.

Calling will be after 2 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent to the family or to view a video after Monday at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., is in charge of arrangements.

Coltyn Kinsinger

AUBURN — Coltyn Shawn Issac Kinsinger was born Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn and died a short time later.

Surviving are his mother and father, Stephanie June (Rasnake) and Thomas Shawn Kinsinger of Kendallville; one brother, Devin Bauer of Kendallville; maternal grandparents, Melissa and Ted Prater of Pippa Passes, Ky., and Dennis and Linda Rasnake of Kendallville; maternal great-grandparents, Ross and Bea Arnold of Kendallville; paternal grandparents, Jerry and Pam Kinsinger of LaGrange; paternal great-grandparents, Eli and Christine Kinsinger of LaGrange and Carl and Agnes Homer of LaPorte.

Services will be at 2 p.m. today at The House of Prayer on Dowling Street, Kendallville, with the Rev. Emory Gibson officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will be one hour

Isabel Luke

ASHLEY — Isabel M. Luke, 86, died Thursday, Feb. 7, 2007, at her daughter's home in Waterloo.

Mrs. Luke worked for 24 years as a cook at Redwood Drive-In of Kendallville.

Mrs. Luke

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Churchin Waterloo and the Waterloo VFW Ladies Auxiliary and a former member of the Ashley Town Board. She worked at the polls in Ashley on election days for many years and was an Ashley High School graduate.

She moved to Ashley from Kendallville in 1971. She and her husband wintered in Arcadia, Fla., for many years.

She was born Nov. 17, 1921, in Waterloo to Joseph B. and Magdeline (Blomeke) Miller. They preceded her in death.

She married H. Dean Luke on July 12, 1975, in Rome City. He died March 19, 2007.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Rick Crummett of Waterloo; a stepdaughter and her husband, Cosy and Jerry Watschke of Hackensack, Mo; a daughter-in-law, JoAnne Williams of Kendallville; three sisters, Roseenna McGuin of Ligonier, Elvina Karst of Kendallville and Zella Ann Collins of Butler; nine grandchildren, Rick Helmick Jr., William Helmick, Rachel Helmick, Joseph M. Williams, Jennifer L. Williams, Ricky Crummett Jr., Amanda Crummett, Derick Crummett and Terry Watschke; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Joseph G. Williams, a brother, Ambrose Miller, and two sisters, Martha Szeman and Thelma Schortgen.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1098 C.R. 39, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. A rosary service will be Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Heartland Home Health and Hospice, Fort Wayne.

Beverly Macrae

FORT WAYNE — Beverly I. (Shutt) Macrae, 76, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, at Parkview Hospital.

She was a homemaker, a volunteer at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and a member of Grace Presbyterian Church, Eastern Star Auburn Lodge and Homemakers Extension Club.

She was born April 27, 1931, in Garrett to Edward M. and Charlotte (Woodcock) Shutt.

She married Donald S. Macrae on Oct. 1, 1961. He died Nov. 23, 2000.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Charlotte and Don Hanley of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren, Andrea, Jessica and Adam Hanley; three brothers, Louis Shutt of Michigan, Robert Shutt of Ohio and James Shutt of Pennsylvania; and two sisters, Mary Ann Warstler and Martha Freed, both of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Ruth Macrae; a brother, LeRoy Shutt; and a grandson.

Services will be today at noon in Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be today from 10 a.m. to noon at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

Carol Coler

HUDSON — Carol Ann Coler, 63, of Hudson died Sunday morning, Feb. 10, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Coler

Mrs. Coler was a homemaker and a member of Ashley Church of God. She was a 1962 graduate of Ashley High School. She bowled for many years in leagues in Auburn and Angola. She was an avid gardener and loved and cherished the time she spent taking care of and looking after her grandchildren.

She was born July 1, 1944, in Angola to James "Jim" and Jessie (Campbell) Dove. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in Ashley.

She married Gerald Coler on Jan. 24, 1970, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Jerry D. Coler of Waterloo, John W. and Diana Coler of Hudson, Lance J. and Trudy Coler of Westfield and Jamison D. and Michele Coler of Avon; 12 grandchildren, Lydia, Daniel, Shane, Rachel, John Michael, Tara, Sarah, Myranda, Christian, Evan, Malia and Mackensie; six great-grandchildren, Aliyah, Samarah, Eli, Aiden, Brae and Chase; and a brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Teresa Dove of Ashley.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Jerry Dean Coler, a brother, Larry Dove, and a sister, Sally Noll.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Bob Neace will officiate. Burial will be in Orland Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Ashley Church of God or Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

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Ronald Marti

WATERLOO — Ronald Marti, 54, of Waterloo and formerly of Garrett, died Friday, Feb. 8, 2008, at the Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Mr. Marti

Mr. Marti had worked as a mig welder for Tenneco in Ligonier since 1986. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of the Garrett Eagles and the Garrett post of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was born May 13, 1953, in Auburn to Donald E. and Unis Margaret (Croy) Marti.

Surviving are two brothers and sisters-in-law, Rick and Sandy Marti of Garrett and Randy and Denda Marti of Waterloo; his companion, Betty Sells; three nephews and three nieces, Deano Marti of Bloomington, Austin Jennings of Garrett, Devin Marti of Willard, Ohio, Holly Kimball of Waterloo, Sheena Chagoya of Garrett and Desiree Marti of Willard, Ohio; and a grandniece, Kay Lee Beard of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Donald Marti Jr.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Richard Pickard will officiate. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery at Kendallville.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

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Businessman Kenneth Lash dies at 77

KENDALLVILLE — Kenneth William Lash, 77, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008, at his home.

In 1948, Mr. Lash and his father started his construction business, K. Lash & Sons Inc. His sons continue to operate the business today. K. Lash & Sons was the developer of Hollybrook Heights, the first apartment complex, and the first condominium complex in Kendallville. His company has constructed more homes than any other builder in Noble County, which totaled more than 800 homes by 2006.

Mr. Lash

He graduated as class president from Kendallville High School in 1948. His co-ed team won the national 4-H vegetable judging championship in 1949 for the third consecutive year in Washington, D.C. The team was coached by Dale Schinbeckler.

Mr. Lash enjoyed flying and obtained his private pilot's license in 1955. He had served on the Kendallville Aviation Board of Directors for 33 years.

He was past president and a member of the Kendallville Youth Center and a 40-year member of the Kendallville Factory Sites Committee.

Mr. Lash was past president and a 33-year past member of the Kendallville Rotary Club and a past Kendallville Chamber of Commerce board member. He had been a Kendallville Elks Lodge member since 1960.

He enjoyed wintering at Fort Myers, Fla., for 28 years, boating on Lake Erie, and building and flying model planes.

Mr. Lash was born in Albion on April 9, 1930, to Kenneth W. Sr. and Gertrude (Schumk) Lash. He married Ellen Jean Kline on Jan. 14, 1950, in Kendallville. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are his mother, Gertrude Arnold of Kendallville; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Larry and Beverly Lash, Steve Lash and his companion, Elisa Ellsworth, and Tracey Lash, all of Kendallville; a daughter and son-in-law, Holly and Ford Frick of Avilla; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Phyllis Lash of Kendallville; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Sheila and Bill Gage of Albion and Lavinn and Don Hyland of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by his father; and a brother, Lee Lash, in 2005.

Private family services will be Friday at Hite Funeral Home.

Calling will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Kendallville Municipal Airport.

View a video tribute (after Thursday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Carolann Davis

GARRETT — Carolann Davis, 61, of Garrett died Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008, at 6:30 a.m. at her home.

Mrs. Davis worked in the office at Dana Corp. in Chelsea, Mich., for 30 years and retired in 1994 from the Pottstown, Pa., plant. She also worked for 11 years in the shipping department at TRW in Garrett. She has lived in Garrett since 1995.

She was a member of the Plainfield United Methodist Church in Gregory, Mich. She also was a member of the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary, Garrett Eagles Auxiliary, UAW Local 164 in Auburn and Judy's Jewels Red Hat Society in Garrett. She was an avid bowler and bowled in the Dana league.

She was born Dec. 19, 1946, in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Wayne H. and Edna I. (Hadley) Geer. Her mother survives in Brighton, Mich.

Mrs. Davis

She married Gerald "Duke" Davis June 30, 1995, in Las Vegas, Nev. He survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Raymond and Teresa Risner of Stockbridge, Mich.; a daughter and son-in-law, Dawn and Kelly Kalusha of Stockbridge; four granddaughters, Staci McDonald, Brittany McDonald, Amanda Risner and Katlyn Risner, all of Stockbridge; a grandson, Ryan Risner of Stockbridge; a great-granddaughter, Shailynn Romero of Stockbridge; a brother, Roger Geer of Dayton, Ohio; and two sisters, Patricia MacArthur of Brighton, Mich., and Judy Jacobs of Gregory, Mich.

Services will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Dana Taylor officiating.

Calling will be from Thursday from 3-7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

Additional calling will be Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Casket-Mitchell Funeral Home in Stockbridge. Burial will follow in Plainfield Cemetery in Gregory.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett or the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent to the family and an online register can be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Richard Stoneking

CORUNNA — Richard Douglas Stoneking, 77, of Corunna died Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Stoneking retired from the U.S. Air Force after serving for 20 years from 1949-1969. He also worked at Phillips in Auburn and retired in 1993.

He was born Jan. 17, 1931, at Joplin, Mo., to Lloyd and Ruth (Mertz) Stoneking. They preceded him in death.

He married Edith T. Thomas on July 13, 1957, in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Harlan. She survives in Corunna.

Also surviving are three daughters and one son-in-law, Nancy and Ron Losure of Starkville, Miss., Ellen Stoneking of Chicago and Kay Miller of Indianapolis; two sons, Eric Stoneking of Laurel, Md., and Craig Stoneking of Marlton, N.J.; two grandchildren, Natasha Stoneking and Thomas Stoneking, both of Kearny, Mo.; one sister, Betty Mauk of Oceanside, Calif.; and one brother and sister-in-law, John and Dorothy Stoneking of Highland, Calif.

There are no services scheduled.

Calling will be Friday from 4-6 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Health Care Service, 1359 S. Randolph St., Garrett, or The Living Waters for the World. (Donations should be directed to Trinity Presbyterian Church U.S.A. in care of the Living Waters Committee, 607 Hospital Road, Starkville, MS 39759.

Dale Jackson

HIGH LAKE — Dale "Max" Jackson, 77, of High Lake near Albion died Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at Parkview Whitley Hospital in Columbia City following a brief illness.

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Jackson had owned Commercial Coatings Inc. for 20 years before retiring in 1990.

He graduated from North Side High School in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Jackson will be remembered for his "carny" lifestyle and deep Christian spirit. He loved to fish and hunt and at the age of 68 captured an eight point buck.

He was born in Fort Wayne to Elga Siefert and Gladys (Rottger) Jackson.

Surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Rhonda and John Bridegan of Churubusco, Kim and Clyde Lawson of Stoneyfork, Ky., Leslie and Larry Eckert of Auburn, Debbie and Louis Arumbula of Fort Wayne and Rebecca and Larry Stewart of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Victoria Jackson of Columbia City; a sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Bob Smith of Fort Wayne; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Paul and Gloria Jackson of Fort Wayne and Jack "Pat" Jackson and his companion, Mary Cramar, of South Carolina.

He was preceded in death by a son, Bruce Jackson, and two daughters, Margaret Jackson and Linda Jackson.

There are no services or calling.

Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Richard Bullock

MCALLEN, Texas — Richard Lee Bullock, 70, of McAllen, Texas, died Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at his residence. He had been ailing for two years.

Mr. Bullock retired as a tool and die maker with Dana Corp. in 2000 after 39 years of service.

He enjoyed observing the weather, music and spending time with his friends.

Mr. Bullock was a member of the Hoosier Cruiser Motorhome Club and loved to travel until he moved permanently to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

He was born Oct. 1, 1937, in Wolcottville to Dean and Laura (Murray) Bullock. On Jan. 31, 1985, he married Carol E. Wright in Van Wert, Ohio. She survives in McAllen.

Also surviving are a daughter, Lori Ehmke of Waterloo; a son, Chad Bullock of Bristol; three stepsons, David Grone and Dale Grone, both of Fort Wayne, and Daniel Grone of Sammamish, Wash.; 20 grandchildren; three sisters, Elisabeth Malone of Ligonier, Ruth Shaw of Three Rivers, Mich., and Ruby Ferro of LaGrange; and his first wife, Sherry Bullock of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dean Bullock; his mother, Laura Rasler; and two sisters, Carol Bullock, who died as an infant, and N. Joyce Bacon.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9 North, Wolcottville, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Woodruff Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to CIMA Hospice, 5317 N. McColl, McAllen, Texas, 78504.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Tina Lyon

ANGOLA — Tina L. (Davis) Lyon, 46, of Angola and formerly of Decatur and Bluffton died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Lyon

Mrs. Lyon was a homemaker.

She was born on July 21, 1961, in Decatur to William Davis and Carol Bercot. She married Brant Lyon on Jan. 5, 1982. He died March 3, 2000.

She is survived by a son, Zachary Lyon of Angola; three daughters, Brittany Lyon of Angola, Amanda Lyon of Fort Wayne and Taylor Byrne of Angola; her father, William Davis of Hot Springs, Ark.; her mother and stepfather, Carol and Mike McCulloch of Fort Wayne; her companion, Jim Byrne of Angola; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Gary and Deb McCulloch of Fremont, Jim McCulloch of Angola and Mark and Regina McCulloch of Fort Wayne; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda and Kyle Dietzen of Syracuse, Sheila and Jim Jesionowski of Indianapolis and Jessica and Greg Taylor of Benton, Ark.; and a grandson, Neil Patrick of Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Haggard & Sefton Funeral Home in Decatur, with graveside services at 2 p.m. at Jamestown Cemetery in Fremont.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the children's education fund.

Condolences may be left at www.hardandsefton.com.

E. Corine Rumsey

KALASKA, Mich. — E. Corine Rumsey, 82, of Kalkaska and formerly of Kendallville died Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at the Eden Center at Kalkaska Memorial Hospital in Kalkaska.

Mrs. Rumsey

Mrs. Rumsey retired from King Seeley in Kendallville and had worked at Essex in Ligonier.

She enjoyed reading, working crossword puzzles and playing cards.

She was born Sept. 30, 1925, in St. Louis, Mo., to Leslie and Georgia (Parrish) Westbrook. She married Donald LaMotte in 1941 and he died in 1953. She then married James Rumsey in 1956 and he died in 1998.

Surviving are two daughters, Cynthia LaMotte of Palm Coast, Fla., and Michele Pecar of Mancelona, Mich.; a son and daughter-in-law, David and Wendy LaMotte of Kendallville; a sister, Patsy Gleckler of Wauseon, Ohio; eight grandchildren, David and Catina LaMotte Jr. of Garrett, Christ and Carla LaMotte of Kendallville, Jeremy and Tanya Holliday of Traverse City, Mich., Candi and Will Braun of Columbus, Ohio, Erin DeLong and Ben of Auburn, Brandon Rumsey of Hudson, Christina Diedo and Devil Lake, Mich., and Thomas Pecar; and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death in by her parents.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with Pastor Mike McKinney of Rome City United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Brushy Chapel Cemetery in LaGrange County.

Condolences may be sent online to carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

John Leinbaugh officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery in rural Butler.

Calling will be Friday from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Bachelor Creek Church of Christ.

Grant Strong

WABASH — Grant Strong, 85, of rural Wabash died Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, at 2:29 a.m. at Wabash County Hospital.

Mr. Strong

Mr. Strong graduated from Tri-State University and attended several other colleges. He worked for more than 10 employers in four states, including NASA, General Electric, Kaiser Aluminum, Essex Wire, National Packaging and Auburn Rubber. He retired from General Tire and Rubber Co. in Wabash in 1985 after 17 years.

He worked in copper, aluminum, plastic, chemicals, textiles and rubber. He held four patents and was a registered professional engineer in three states.

He was a member of Bachelor Creek Church of Christ in Wabash and was active in all his church memberships. He was involved in starting four new churches in three states and was a supporter of the Lord's work. His priority in life was to show God's love and lead others to Christ.

He enjoyed photography and making homemade windmills. He was an inventor and enjoyed tinkering in the workshop. He was a U.S. Army veteran and had lived in Wabash County since November 1967.

He was born Jan. 30, 1923, in St. Joe to George L. and Lu Reign (Thomas) Strong.

He married Faye E. Alwood in Butler on June 28, 1952. She died July 10, 1997.

Surviving are a son, George Strong of Wabash; a daughter and son-in-law, Marsha and Ron McCormick of Lansing, Mich.; two grandchildren, Ryan McCormick and his wife, Alyson, and Rachel McCormick, all of Lansing, Mich.; a brother and sister-in-law, Harry and Lois Jean Strong of St. Joe; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Alice Hose of Butler, June and Arville Brown of Kendallville and Coral Steckley of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Lloyd Strong, and a sister, Blanche Cook.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave., Wabash, with

John Bell

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — John A. Bell, 66, of Lehigh Acres and formerly of Kendallville died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Bell retired as a first sergeant after 29 years of service with the United States Army. He then retired from the Lehigh Acres Post Office.

Survivors include three sisters, Joyce Allen of Sarasota, Fla., Kathy Linthicum of Auburn and April Kemerly of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy; and his parents, Clarence "Ding" Bell and Betty Hart Bell.

Military services will be at 11 a.m. Feb. 22 at Lee Memorial Park Cemetery at Fort Myers, Fla.

Anderson Funeral Home of Lehigh Acres is in charge of arrangements.

Damon Casey

AUBURN — Damon W. Casey, 74, of Auburn, died Thursday, Feb. 14, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Casey

Born in Walkerton, Mr. Casey was a train dispatcher and chief clerk for CSX Transportation, formerly the B&O Railroad, for 41 years, retiring in 1994.

He was a member of American Legion Post 178 in Garrett. He was a U.S. Navy 3rd Class Petty Officer from 1953-57 and a plank owner on USS Tom Green County LST 1159.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, mushroom hunting, gardening and bird watching.

He was married April 2, 1960, at the Washington Congregational Church in Toledo, Ohio.

Surviving are his wife, Judy A. Casey of Auburn; two sons, Gregory W. Casey of Auburn and Timothy D. Casey of New Haven; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Lori Casey of Buchanan, Mich.; and five grandchildren, Kylie, Austin, Rilley, Payton and Sean Casey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Henry and Clara Helen Casey, and two brothers, Dennis and Daniel Casey.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Chaplain Paul Marki officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett, with military graveside rites by the Garrett post of the American Legion and the U.S. Navy.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. and Monday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Lutheran Worship for Shut Ins or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Ella Mae Fike

GARRETT — Ella Mae "Johnny" Fike, 84, of Garrett, died Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mrs. Fike was a homemaker and a member of the Zion 16 Lutheran Church.

She was born Sept. 19, 1923, in Garrett to Thomas J. and Clara B. (Steinbruner) Noel. They preceded her in death.

She married Arthur Junior Fike on June 26, 1943, in Gatesville, Texas. He died Nov. 10, 2003.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Steven Arthur Fike and Kay Fike of San Francisco, Calif., Laurin Thomas and Janice Fike of Garrett and Jack Nathan and Sharon Fike, all of Garrett; four grandchildren, Lisa Marie Fike of San Francisco, Brian Michael Fike of Garrett, Matthew Ross Fike of Constantine, Mich., and Kyle Nathan Fike of Auburn; and a great-granddaughter in Auburn.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Edwin C. Noel, and a sister, Marie Schulthess.

Private family services be held, with burial in Christian Union Cemetery of rural Garrett.

There will be no calling.

Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R 56, Garrett, is handling arrangements.

Rita Bolenbaugh

ANGOLA — Rita M. Bolenbaugh, 77, of Angola died Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and VFW Auxiliary, George Anspaugh PST 7205. She also enjoyed golfing and knitting.

Mrs. Bolenbaugh worked at Magnavox and GE in Fort Wayne.

She was born July 9, 1930 in Offenbach, Germany, to Franz and Elizabeth (Engelhart) Hau. She married Alfred Bolenbaugh on April 2, 1955. He survives in Angola.

Also surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Heidy and Neil Rexroth of Ossian; one brother, Hans Karl Hau of Offenbach; two sisters, Martha Streun of Offenbach, and Margarite Fraser of Angola; one stepgrandchild; and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one infant son and a brother, Franz Hau.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Father Fred Pasche officiating. Burial will be in Jamestown Cemetery in Steuben County.

Calling will be Monday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Alzheimer's associations.

Glenn Moore

SPENCERVILLE — Glenn F. Moore, 88, died Thursday evening, Feb. 14, 2008, at The Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Mr. Moore

Mr. Moore worked for 46 years in the maintenance department at Magnavox. He was a member of the Spencerville United Methodist Church, Spencerville Community Club and Spencerville Covered Bridge Festival and was a lifetime member of the Spencerville Volunteer Fire Department and the St. Joe Lions Club. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was born Nov. 19, 1919, in Hicksville, Ohio. to Enos C. and Lola B. (Elliott) Moore.

He married Betty "Jean" Longbrake on Dec. 12, 1942, in Spencerville. She died March 24, 2000.

Surviving are two sons, Donald Moore of Fort Wayne and Robert Moore of Blackshire, Ga.; two daughters, Deloris "Dee" Davis of Bowling Green, Ky., and Charyl Zeisloft of Auburn; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Paul Moore of Huntington and Ted Moore of Mt. Dora, Fla.

He was preceded in death by a great-grandaughter, Chelsea Menshy; a great-grandson, Dalton Hathaway; three brothers, Lee, Akin and Ray Moore; and six sisters, Maxine Kelley, Marguerite and Esther Moore, Leila Bloemke, Martha Parker and Elizabeth Stemen.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in the Spencerville United Methodist Church with Pastor Gerry Weesner officiating. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be Sunday from 2–7 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials to the Spencerville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Spencerville, IN 46788.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct errors and include additional information.*

E. Corine Rumsey

KALASKA, Mich. — E. Corine Rumsey, 82, of Kalkaska and formerly of Kendallville died Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at the Eden Center at Kalkaska Memorial Hospital in Kalkaska.

Mrs. Rumsey

Mrs. Rumsey retired from King Seeley in Kendallville and had worked at Essex in Ligonier.

She enjoyed reading, working crossword puzzles and playing cards.

She was born Sept. 30, 1925, in St. Louis, Mo., to Leslie and Georgia (Parrish) Westbrook. She married Donald LaMotte in 1941 and he died in 1953. She then married James Rumsey in 1956 and he died in 1998.

Surviving are two daughters, Cynthia LaMotte of Palm Coast, Fla., and Michele Pecar of Mancelona, Mich.; two sons and a daughter-in-law, David and Wendy LaMotte of Kendallville and Michael Rumsey of Fort Wayne ; a sister, Patsy Gleckler of Wauseon, Ohio; eight grandchildren, David and Catina LaMotte Jr. of Garrett, Chris and Carla LaMotte of Kendallville, Jeremy and Tanya Holliday of Traverse City, Mich., Candi and Will Braun of Columbus, Ohio, Erin DeLong and Ben of Auburn, Brandon Rumsey of Hudson, Christina Diedo of Devils Lake, Mich., and Thomas Pecar of Mancelona, Mich.; 18 great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

She was also preceded in death in by her parents.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with Pastor Mike McKinney of Rome City United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Brushy Chapel Cemetery in LaGrange County.

Condolences may be sent online to carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

THE EVENING STAR
February 17 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Martin's life about involvement

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — More than 70 years ago, Ronald Rose lived in rural Steuben County and had to come into Angola for schooling. Nervous about coming into town every day, he soon met a friend, a lifelong friend who he said would always be ready with a good joke.

Ralph Martin, Rose's friend for 70 years, and an active member of the Angola community from the time he was born here, died Jan. 28, at age 82. Martin had served as Tri-State University controller for 30 years and had been involved in a number of organizations and activities in the area.

Rose remembered how often he would stay with Martin and his parents at their home in Angola, rather than walking back to his home during the week. The jokes Martin would tell, he said, stayed with them throughout their friendship.

Mr. Martin

"No one knew Ralph that didn't know him to have a great joke whenever you saw him," Rose said. "We would talk about jokes that he made 40 years ago. Nobody else has that sense of humor. He was one of those people who could find the humor in a funeral."

Rose and Martin both went into the Navy together during World War II and attended both Indiana University and Tri-State following their return. Rose worked at Martin's father's automobile dealership, where Martin worked for a time, before Martin left to work for Tri-State.

"We were the best man at each other's wedding. He helped to raise my son. I helped to raise his children. It was one of those friendships you can't measure."

Martin met his wife Patricia, when he was working at the dealership.

"We met in Fort Wayne," Partake Martin remembered. "He came to see my roommate, who he'd sold a car to." She remembered her husband as "a great father," who stayed active in the community.

Martin helped to manage Tri-State's finances during a major growth period for the school. Rose said he knew few people better suited to the job.

"He was one of the greatest mathematicians I've ever known," Rose said. Martin's son, David, said his father probably taught dozens of auditors about how universities managed their books during his time at the school.

In addition to his role at Tri-State, Martin served as secretary of the Masonic Lodge in Angola, was a longtime member of the Angola American Legion Post No. 31, as well as serving on the Angola Park Board, the Steuben County Historical Society and Lions Club. He performed in community theater productions and also served on the "chain gang" at football games, long after his own sons had left high school.

David Martin remembered his father as someone who was always willing to work for the betterment of the area.

"When he was on the park board, even if he opposed something, but the vote went the other way, he would always work to the utmost to make it happen," he said.

Martin managed to extend his service throughout the county after he retired. He and Rose walked across all the railroad lines that marked the county for a history of the railroads in the area. Rose and Martin were also responsible for the current numbering system used by the county.

"We drove to every mailbox, every road, in this van with a desk in it," Rose said. "The county had been given this old telephone van. One of us would sit at the desk and have the old plat books out and marked every house. We drove every road in this county. We would find people without mailboxes. We'd find these driveways if we passed them."

Rose said he knew Martin better than members of his own family.

"I have brothers and sisters, and I probably know Ralph as much as I know them. No one else I know has a friend for 70 years," Rose said.

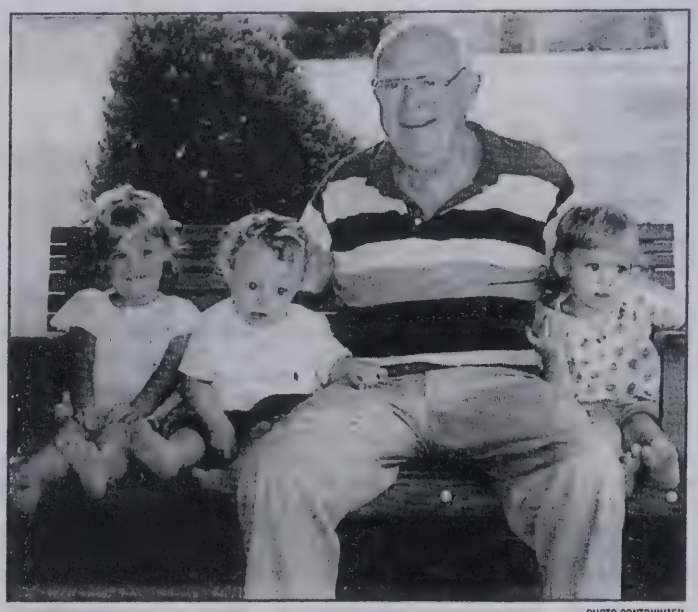


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ralph Martin was a lifelong Angola resident who was active in many area organizations. Here he sits at his former home on West Maumee with three of his grandchildren, Ali, Zane and Andrea.

Ina German

ANGOLA — Ina Lucile Callender German, 93, of Angola died in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Carole Sue and Dean Shank, on Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008.

Mrs. German

Mrs. German was an active member of the Flint United Methodist Church and had been Sunday School superintendent, youth leader, president of the United Methodist Women, church pianist and choir director. She enjoyed teaching Sunday school and vacation Bible school many years.

Her hobbies included reading, playing cards and piano, needle work and sending cards to shut-ins. She was a wife, homemaker, mother and grandmother to many. She loved to cook special meals for family birthdays.

She was the Flint correspondent for the Steuben Republican and later the Herald-Republican for many years. She spent much of her youth at the Callender Hardware that her mother owned.

She was born in Angola on Oct. 2, 1914, to Rolla and Anabel (Remoley) Callender. She was a graduate of Angola High School.

She married Murl Benjamin German on March 2, 1932, in Angola. He preceded her in death on Aug. 13, 2000.

Surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Ann and Michael Morgan of Webster, N.Y., Julia Jean and Perry Stauffer of Elkhart, Carole Sue and Dean Shank of Angola, Betty Jo and William "Bob" Rodgers of Auburn, and Deborah and Daniel Murphy of Shipshewana; and one daughter-in-law, Ann German of Angola. Also, 14 grandchildren, Robert A. and Thomas Morgan, Vickie Bryan, Robert Stauffer, Michael German, Shari Harrington, Beverly Coolman, Steven D. and Mark V. Shank, Angela Upchurch, Candace Kaiser, Wade Bernitt Rodgers, Joshua Murl Murphy and Christina Bovee. Also, 28 great-grandchildren, Sean, Michal Kathryn, Charissa, Emily, Dalton and Erin Morgan; Jennifer Bryan; Sarah Shultz; Amanda Asbell; Jessica Thompson; Lindsey Thomas; Matthew, Zachary and Barrett German; Jacob and Lydia Strohl; Christian and Alex Harrington; Emma L. Shank; Dennis and Maygan Lucile Upchurch; Thelma, Geneva, Benjamin and Carolyn Murphy; and Alegra, Diella and Josiah Bovee. Also, six great-great-grandchildren, Chandler and Caitlyn Asbell, Evan and Drew Thompson, Atreyu Bryan-Safara and Katherine Shultz.

She also was preceded in death by an infant sister; two sons, Merrill Roy and Milo Kent German; and three grandsons, Joseph Morgan, Timothy Stauffer and Scott E. Shank.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Flint United Methodist Church, Flint, with her grandson, Pastor Robert A. Morgan officiating.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday at Weicht Funeral Home, Angola, and one hour before the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Robert Stauffer, Thomas Morgan, Michael German, Steven Shank, Mark Shank, Joshua Murphy and Wade Rogers.

Memorials are to Cameron Hospice and the Flint United Methodist Church.

THE EVENING STAR
February 18 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Kendallville businessman John B. Hutchins dies at 73

KENDALLVILLE — John B. Hutchins, 73, prominent Kendallville businessman and native, died Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, at 4:10 p.m. at his residence following a recent illness.

Mr. Hutchins graduated from Kendallville High School in 1952 and from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science in 1953. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hanover College in 1957, majoring in business and psychology.

He served six years with the U.S. Army Reserves.

Mr. Hutchins served 55 years in funeral service. In 1958, Mr. Hutchins joined the family funeral home in Kendallville. In 1973, he purchased the Williams Funeral Home in Wolcottville. As a fifth generation funeral director, he celebrated 125 years of his family's service to the community in 1985. The funeral homes were sold in 1989, with all personnel remaining, including Mr. Hutchins. In 2006, the funeral homes were sold back to longtime employees Kathy and Pat Young.

Mr. Hutchins' professional affiliations included membership in and serving as past president (1985-86) of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA). He was also a member and past president (1972-73) of the Indiana Funeral Directors Association (IFDA), and a member of the International Federation of Thanatologists and the Associated Funeral Directors Service. He served as past chairman of the American Board of Funeral Service Education and received continuing education awards from the Indiana Funeral Directors Association from 1976 through 2007.

He was a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Kendallville; a 50-year member of the Kendallville Lodge No. 276 F.&A.M.; Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite; the Shrine; past president of the Kendallville United Fund and Kendallville Elks Lodge No. 1194.

Mr. Hutchins

Mr. Hutchins was a lifetime member and past president of the Kendallville Rotary Club. During his year of presidency the Kendallville Rotarians were awarded the Outstanding Club Award in District 654. He helped form the first Interact Club of Rotary for young people in Indiana.

He was a past member of the Kendallville Park and Recreation Board of Directors; past member of the Noble County Red Cross Board of Directors; president of the East Noble school board building corporation for North Side and Wayne Center school constructions; past member of the Baseball Commission; board member and past president of Junior Achievement; vice president of Factory Sites of Kendallville; and chairman of fundraising for the Cole Center Family YMCA.

Mr. Hutchins was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by the state of Indiana; a Kentucky Colonel by the state of Kentucky; and an Arkansas Traveler by then Gov. Bill Clinton. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary.

He was born May 15, 1934, in Kendallville to Myron C. and Beverly (Berhalter) Hutchins. He married Sherrell Jean "Sherry" Harter on Sept. 1, 1956, in Indianapolis. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Stacia and Edward Stump of Kimmell; a son and daughter-in-law, J. Scott and Tracy Hutchins of Kendallville; six grandchildren, Sheryl and Ben Hawkins of Wolcottville, Ethan Henry of Kendallville, Thomas Henry of Kimmell, Jocelyn Hutchins of Kendallville, Justin and Laura Stump of Columbia City and Andrew Stump of Wolf Lake; four great-grandchildren, Wyatt Petrie-Hawkins, Madison Hawkins, Jeremiah Blake Hawkins and Jayden Stump; a sister, Jalna J. Lang of Kingwood, Texas; a niece, Leslie Lang; and a nephew, Todd Lang.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son, Byron Harter Hutchins.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Paul B. Griebel and the Rev. Stanley Kessler officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Honorary pallbearers will be John Bower, Emmett Lovett, Jack Jollief, Jerry Davis, Tom Burke, John Mulholland, Bob Czupryn, H H Critchfield, Dave Hosler, Darol Stroman, Duane Axel, John Thrapp, Craig Fischer, Glen Cook, Duane Hanes, and the NFDA and IFDA past presidents. Active pallbearers will be Sheryl Hawkins, Ethan Henry, Thomas Henry, Jocelyn Hutchins, Pat Young, Adam Young, Beth Mosley, Hal "Howdy" Schuman, Erica Dekko and Joe Freed.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m., Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., and one hour prior to services on Friday.

Memorials are to the Noble County Community Foundation.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Richard Mathys

GARRETT — Richard E. Mathys, 78, of Garrett died Monday, Feb. 18, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Mathys

Mr. Mathys was a conductor for the B&O Railroad for 40 years, retiring in 1989. He was a veteran of the U.S Navy, serving during the Korean conflict.

He was a member of the Garrett post of the American Legion and F.O.E. 1357 of Garrett and was well-known for his woodworking skills.

He was born June 7, 1929, in Geneva to Clinton and Jesse (Runkle) Mathys. They preceded him in death.

He married his wife, Mary Ellen, on Nov. 9, 1952, in Muncie. She died June 22, 2007.

Surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah and Fred Klink of Garrett, Cynthia and Brian Higbee of Angola, Terri and Kim Hendrickson of Garrett and Linda and Steve Grimm of Garrett; a son, Jeff Mathys of Garrett; nine grandchildren, Shannon, Megan and Kacy Hardenbrook, Jessica Hildebrant, Kimberly Hendrickson, Jennifer Garringer, Stephanie Patton, Madyson Grimm and Stephen Mathys; 11 great-grandchildren; four sisters, Beatrice Isch of Berne, Bernice Bransteter of Berne, Irene Birch of Monroe and Roberta Isch of Decatur; and a brother, Raymon Mathys of Geneva.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Ruth Mathys, and three brothers, Clifford Mathys, Doyle Mathys and Robert Mathys.

Services will be Wednesday at 3 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Michelle Isch officiating. Military services will be conducted by the Garrett post of the American Legion.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Shriners Hospital for Children of Cincinnati, 3229 Burnet Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229, Attention: Donation Department.

Albert Stricklin

WATERLOO — Albert L. Stricklin, 71, of Waterloo and formerly of North Webster, died of natural causes Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008, at 10:55 p.m. in Parkview Noble Hospital at Kendallville.

Mr. Stricklin was a truck driver for more than 20 years. He lived in North Webster for several years before moving to Waterloo. He was a member of American Legion Post 253 in North Webster.

He was born Feb. 12, 1937, in Pricedale, Pa., to Albert and Cathrine (Vukovich) Stricklin. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a daughter, Lee Marie Stricklin of El Cajon, Calif.; two sisters, Elizabeth Hamm of Warsaw and Evelyn Groves of Syracuse; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Ronald and Joyce Stricklin of Syracuse and Robert and Judy Stricklin of Greensburg, Pa.

No services or calling are planned. Burial will be at a later date.

Memorials are to the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.mishlerfuneralhomes.com.

Mishler-Eastlund Funeral Home, Harris Chapel, of Syracuse is handling arrangements.

Albert Schrimshaw

PAYNE, Ohio — Albert C. Schrimshaw, 95, died Friday, Feb. 15, 2008, at 8:55 a.m. at The Oaks in Columbia City.

Mr. Schrimshaw was an engineer for Kunkle Valve of Fort Wayne and was a test driver for the former International Harvester truck manufacturing plant of Fort Wayne. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church of Briceton, Ohio.

He was born April 15, 1912, in Paulding County, Ohio, to Charles and Minnie (Allan) Schrimshaw.

On Jan. 1, 1939, he married Helen W. Huebner. She died Nov. 19, 2002.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Rex and Irene Schrimshaw of Wesley Chapel, Fla., Neal and Mary Schrimshaw of Bolingbrook, Ill., and Keith and Linda Schrimshaw of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Marla and John White of Churubusco; 11 grandchildren 15 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Joseph A. Schrimshaw, and a sister, Grace LeFvre.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in St. John Lutheran Church at Briceton, Ohio. Pastor Joe Allen will officiate. Burial will be in St. Paul Cemetery at Paulding, Ohio.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. at Den Herder Funeral Home in Paulding and Wednesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. John Lutheran Church, 7611 Road 87, Paulding, OH 45879.

THE EVENING STAR
February 19 2008 Auburn, Indiana

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct errors.*

Ina German

ANGOLA — Ina Lucile Callender German, 93, of Angola died in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Carole Sue and Dean Shank, on Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008.

Mrs. German

Mrs. German was an active member of the Flint United Methodist Church and had been Sunday School superintendent, youth leader, president of the United Methodist Women, church pianist and choir director. She enjoyed teaching Sunday school and vacation Bible school many years.

Her hobbies included reading, playing cards and piano, needle work and sending cards to shut-ins. She was a wife, homemaker, mother and grandmother to many. She loved to cook special meals for family birthdays.

She was the Flint correspondent for the Steuben Republican and later the Herald-Republican for many years. She spent much of her youth at the Callender Hardware, which her mother owned.

She was born in Angola on Oct. 2, 1914, to Rolla and Anabel (Ramaley) Callender. She was a graduate of Angola High School.

She married Murl Benjamin German on March 2, 1932, in Angola. He preceded her in death on Aug. 13, 2000.

Surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Ann and Michael Morgan of Webster, N.Y., Julia Jean and Perry Stauffer of Elkhart, Carole Sue and Dean Shank of Angola, Betty Jo and William "Bob" Rodgers of Auburn, and Deborah and Daniel Murphy of Shipshewana; and one daughter-in-law, Ann German of Angola. Also, 14 grandchildren, Robert A. and Thomas Morgan, Vickie Bryan, Robert Stauffer, Michael German, Shari Harrington, Beverly Coolman, Steven D. and Mark V. Shank, Angela Upchurch, Candace Kaiser, Wade Bennitt Rodgers, Joshua Murl Murphy and Christina Bovee. Also, 28 great-grandchildren, Sean, Michal Kathryn, Charissa, Emily, Dalton and Erin Morgan; Jennifer Bryan; Sarah Shultz; Amanda Asbell; Jessica Thompson; Lindsey Thomas; Matthew, Zachary and Barrett German; Jacob and Lydia Strohl; Christian and Alex Harrington; Emma L. Shank; Dennis and Maygan Lucile Upchurch; Thelma, Geneva, Benjamin and Carolyn Murphy; and Alegra, Diella and Josiah Bovee. Also, six great-great-grandchildren, Chandler and Caitlyn Asbell, Evan and Drew Thompson, Atreyu Bryan-Safara and Katherine Shultz.

She also was preceded in death by an infant sister; two sons, Merrill Roy and Milo Kent German; and three grandsons, Joseph Morgan, Timothy Stauffer and Scott E. Shank.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Flint United Methodist Church, Flint, with her grandson, Pastor Robert A. Morgan, officiating.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday at Weicht Funeral Home, Angola, and one hour before the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Robert Stauffer, Thomas Morgan, Michael German, Steven Shank, Mark Shank, Joshua Murphy and Wade Rodgers.

Memorials are to Cameron Hospice and the Flint United Methodist Church.

DuWan King

LAGRANGE — DuWan J. King, 66, of LaGrange died Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008, at Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange.

Mr. King

Mr. King was a furniture maker.

A native of LaGrange County, he lived in Wilmington, N.C., for a period of time and moved back to LaGrange in 1994.

He had served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. King was a member of LaGrange Church of God in LaGrange.

He was born Aug. 27, 1941, in Stroh to Edward A. and Audra H. (Porter) King. His father is deceased and his mother survives in Stroh.

He married Rebecca P. Tuttle on Oct. 19, 1999, in LaGrange. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Kirk and Deena King of Wilmington, N.C., and Derek and Pam King of Lake Waccamaw, N.C.; a stepdaughter, Mary Gose of Stroh, two stepsons, Kenneth Healey and Westley Healey, both of Wolcottville; 12 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Wilma McCombs and Joyce Gibson, both of Fort Wayne.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Mark King.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Stroh Church of God in Stroh, with the Revs. Lloyd Jury and Brian VanOsdol officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery at LaGrange with military rites by LaGrange American Legion Post 215.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange.

Memorials are to LaGrange Church of God's Home Missions.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.frurip-mayfuneralhome.com.

Lavon Musser Jr.

AUBURN — Lavon A. Musser Jr., 45, of Auburn died Friday, Feb. 15, 2008.

Born in DeKalb County, Mr. Musser graduated from Buckley High School in Michigan. He was a member of Noble House Club House in Kendallville and New Life Ministries in Garrett. He enjoyed fishing and loved his family.

Surviving are two daughters, Teresa Goff of Hamilton and Kayla Musser of Pennsylvania; a brother and sister-in-law, Les and Shawn Musser of Hicksville, Ohio; a grandchild, Haydon Neely of Pennsylvania; his father, Lavon A. Musser Sr. of Florida; and his mother, Clara Mae Musser of Auburn.

Services will be Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at New Life Ministries in Garrett with Pastor Layne Andrews officiating.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-7:30 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Joseph Garceau

GREENCASTLE — Joseph Robert Garceau, 65, of Greencastle, died Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at his residence.

A former Auburn resident, he had been a self-employed engineer for several years.

Surviving are two sons, Mark Garceau of Colorado and John Garceau of Germany, and a brother, Arthur, of Danville.

A memorial service is planned for a later date in Auburn.

Chandler-Hays Funeral Home in Greencastle is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
February 20 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Man found dead near Garrett

Witness says she reported seeing his vehicle crash 22 hours earlier

FROM STAFF REPORTS

GARRETT — Questions surround the death of an Avilla man whose body was found in a field east of Garrett Tuesday afternoon — including whether he could have been rescued.

A witness said today she saw the man crash Monday afternoon and reported it to police, who did not go into the field to investigate until 22 hours later.

Duane Squire, 66, was found outside his blue 1989 Oldsmobile just after 1 p.m. Tuesday and pronounced dead at the scene, according to DeKalb County Sheriff John Dennis.

Squire's grandson, Erich Squire, 14, was alive inside the car, alert and responsive, Dennis reported. A DeKalb EMS ambulance took the boy to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He apparently had been in the car overnight in single-digit temperatures.

In a missing-persons alert Tuesday morning, Noble County Sheriff Gary Leatherman said the teenage boy is autistic.

The boy was in good condition Tuesday afternoon and walked to the ambulance, said DeKalb County Coroner Jeff Warner.

Investigators will conduct an autopsy later this week to determine the cause of death for Duane Squire, Warner said. Leatherman said Tuesday that Duane Squire had a history of seizures and had not taken his daily medication Monday.

Warner said he did not know if an epileptic seizure was a factor in the incident. He said Squire was able to get out of the car after it crashed into the field.

"You could see his muddy footprints around the car. You could also see where he had fallen down in the field. At some point he got back into the car — there's mud inside, too," Warner said. Muddy handprints all over the exterior of the car indicate that Squire may have tried to push the car, the coroner added.

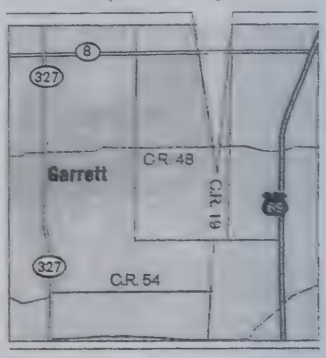
Police had been searching for the pair since they were reported missing late Monday night. According to Leatherman, they left home Monday afternoon for a scheduled appointment to pay a bill in Auburn. They never arrived for the appointment and did not return home.

An Auburn woman said today that she watched a car — apparently driven by Duane Squires — veer off C.R. 48 into the field east of Garrett Monday afternoon.

SEE DEAD, PAGE A8

Missing man, grandson found in field

Duane Squire, 66, was found dead outside his car in a field east of Garrett Tuesday afternoon. His grandson, Erich Squire, 14, was alive inside the car and was taken to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.



Source: DeKalb County Sheriff's Department KPC Media Group, Inc.

DEAD: *Woman says she called police on Monday*

FROM PAGE A1

Cheryl Monroe said she was driving toward Garrett with her husband to meet their son.

"All of a sudden, we saw this car — at about 45 mph — just veer off and jump the ditch into the middle of the field," Monroe said.

After the car stopped near a line of trees, the driver got out, she said.

"It looked like he was getting himself recomposed from going into the ditch. I just felt something wasn't right," she added.

Monroe called 911 at 2:52 p.m. Monday and reached a dispatcher at the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department, she said. After reporting the crash, she continued to Garrett.

As the Monroes were returning to Auburn on C.R. 48, a sheriff's dispatcher called her at 3:02 p.m. and said an officer could not find the vehicle she reported.

Monroe said a sheriff's car with its lights flashing was on C.R. 19, apparently looking for the crash site. She told the dispatcher that she could see just the top of the car in the field from her vantage point on C.R. 48.

The dispatcher asked more questions to pinpoint her location, Monroe said.

"All of a sudden, he said, 'We've been told they have permission to be back there.' I found that to be odd," Monroe said.

Moments later, a Garrett Police officer stopped to ask the Monroes if they needed help. When she mentioned the car in the field, the officer told her, "Oh, they have permission to be back there," she said.

"I just felt had they investigated a little more, maybe the gentleman would be alive today, and the 14-year-old wouldn't have had to sit in the cold all night," Monroe said this morning.

According to a news release, at 12:40 p.m. Tuesday, the Sheriff's Department was called to check for the missing pair southwest of the intersection of C.R. 19 and C.R. 48.

An owner of the property reportedly had seen automobile tracks in the field and called police. At 1:03 p.m. Tuesday, police found the car and missing pair in the field. A news release described the site as about one-half mile south of C.R. 48 and west of C.R. 19.

Ruth Smith

AUBURN — Ruth W. Smith, 87, of Auburn died Monday evening, Feb. 18, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith worked as a switchboard operator for 13 years. She also was a nurse's aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and for Home Health Care for 20 years before retiring in 1990. She was a member of the Auburn Church of Christ and volunteered at the hospital and for Red Cross.

She was born March 4, 1920, in Stafford Township in DeKalb County to Grover C. and Olive "Edna" (Farver) Walter. They preceded her in death.

She married Kenneth O. Smith on June 18, 1938. He died in 1980.

Surviving are two sons and three daughters-in-law, Walter C. and Edna Smith of Lincoln, Ill., currently missionaries in Nigeria, Keith E. and Robyn Smith of Butler and Wanda M. Smith of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren and their spouses, Keith A. and Nancy Smith, Ann and Jeff Scheribel, Jerianne and Tim Hyde, Todd and Ruth Smith and Amanda; 12 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Frank E. Walter of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by a son, Richard K. Smith, three brothers, Marion E. Walter, Ford F. Walter and Howard E. Walter, and a sister, Helen T. Wunderlin.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at Newville.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. and Monday from 10-11 a.m at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Allen County Multiple Sclerosis or African Christian Mission.

Jean Gatton

KENDALLVILLE — Jean Gatton, 85, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mrs. Gatton

Mrs. Gatton volunteered at the Bargain Shop in Kendallville for more than 25 years. She was also a designer with Pullman Monument Works for many years.

She authored many short stories that were published in local newspapers.

Mrs. Gatton graduated from Garrett High School in 1941.

She was a member of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville where she was an active Sunday school member and took care of the church attendance records.

Mrs. Gatton was born in Garrett on Nov. 19, 1922, to John Elmer and Daisy Belle (Stoner) Ellington. She married Robert Pusey Gatton on July 8, 1944, in Atlantic City, N.J. He died Dec. 28, 1997.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Jeff Kotterman of Kendallville; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Tom and Melinda Gatton of Kendallville, Robert Gatton of Hollywood, Fla., and Tim and Julie Gatton of Colorado Springs, Colo.; six grandchildren, Nathan Kotterman of Chicago, Emily and Nate Shamp of Angola, Elizabeth Gatton of West Lafayette, Meredith Gatton of Kendallville and Kyle and Evan Gatton of Colorado Springs; a great-granddaughter, Alayna Shamp; and a sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Byron McCandless of Kent, Ohio.

She was also preceded in death by an infant daughter, Carol Sue in 1952; and two half sisters, Helen Bartels and Georgiana Brown.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Hite Funeral Home with the Rev. Scott Pattison officiating. Burial will be at Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation or Shepherd of the Hill.

View a video tribute (after Sunday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Harry Greenwalt

WOLCOTTVILLE — Harry F. Greenwalt, 58, of Big Long Lake, Wolcottville, died Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Greenwalt worked at International Harvester in Fort Wayne and in construction.

He was a graduate of Angola High School.

Mr. Greenwalt enjoyed spending time with his family and had a passion for Big Long Lake. He was an avid New York Yankees baseball fan and enjoyed NHRA races and attending concerts.

He was born Jan. 10, 1950, in DeKalb County to James Robert and Isabelle Jane Greenwalt. They are deceased.

Surviving is a sister, Kathleen Greenwalt of South Bend.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Larry Greenwalt.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery.

Calling will be one-half hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Marietta Sheets

WATERLOO — Marietta E. Sheets, 97, of Waterloo and formerly of Auburn and Mesa, Ariz., died Tuesday evening, Feb. 19, 2008, at her daughter's home in Waterloo.

Mrs. Sheets

After raising her children, she went to school and worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn as a obstetrics nurse's aide.

In 1972, she and her husband moved to Dreamland Villa in Mesa, Ariz., where she did a lot of volunteer work, including delivering Meals on Wheels. She formed the Dreamland Villa Hiking Club and hiked the mountains around Mesa for many years.

She organized craft shows where her husband sold the turquoise jewelry he made. She also wrote recipes in a column titled "Easy Cooking" for Dreamland Villa's community paper for 15 years.

She was an active member of Velda Rose Methodist Church of Mesa, where she helped with rummage sales for 18 years.

After returning to Waterloo in 2003, she attended Cedar Lake Church of Christ. She is a 50-year member of Eastern Star in Auburn.

She was born Aug. 29, 1910, in Auburn to John Perry and Rosa Belle (Rupert) Long.

She married Kenneth Albert Sheets on March 2, 1935, in Garrett. He died June 29, 2001.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Shelley Sheets of Lakewood, Colo.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jill and Phil Robbins of Mesa, Ariz., and Mary and Jim Engle of Waterloo; six grandchildren; two stepgrandsons; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Thomas Lee Sheets; two brothers, Bill Long and Rupert Long; and two sisters, Mozelle Tuttle and Peggy Dunn, in addition to her parents and husband.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Steve Evans will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or A New Day Adult Center.

THE EVENING STAR
February 21 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Finding body takes 22 hours

DAVE KURTZ
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GARRETT — Due to a series of misunderstandings, police did not find an Avilla man's body until 22 hours after he crashed his car Monday in a field east of Garrett.

Police who responded just minutes after the crash left without finding the car. Instead, they believed another officer's assurance that someone had driven off C.R. 48 intentionally to gather firewood.

Duane Squire, 66, was found dead outside his blue 1989 Oldsmobile just after 1 p.m. Tuesday. His autistic grandson, Erich Squire, 14, survived inside the car, spending a night in single-digit temperatures.

Squire

Two deputies who abandoned the search for Squire's crash are "devastated by it, because they're very dedicated officers who work very hard," said DeKalb County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jay Oberholtzer.

Duane Squire apparently stayed alive for at least a while after the crash at about 2:50 p.m. Monday. A witness reported seeing him outside the car immediately afterward. DeKalb County Coroner Jeff Warner said Squire left mud tracks inside the car and muddy handprints all over the car's exterior.

Warner said an autopsy to determine the cause of Squire's death will take place later this week. The coroner said Squire had a history of epileptic seizures, but he did not know if that was a factor in the tragedy.

The DeKalb County Sheriff's Department received at least two 911 calls Monday afternoon reporting that a car veered off the road along C.R. 48, a busy route between Garrett and Auburn.

The first call came at 2:50 p.m. from a woman who told a dispatcher, "We just witnessed a car go off into a field." A moment later, she said,

SEE BODY, PAGE A9

Con't pg. 75

THE EVENING STAR
February 21 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Con't from pg 74

BODY: *Dispatcher says erratic driving probably a joke*

FROM PAGE A1

"They're still driving through the field."

Oberholtzer allowed access to digital recordings of police radio traffic and 911 calls about the incident.

Cheryl Monroe of Auburn also called to report that a car had left the roadway and gone into a field south of C.R. 48. Monroe and her husband then continued to their destination in Garrett.

A sheriff's deputy arrived on the scene at 2:57 p.m. and began asking a dispatcher for help in finding the crash and a description of the car.

The dispatcher called Monroe back for more information at 3:03 p.m., just as she and her husband were passing the crash scene again on their way back to Auburn.

"We see the car just off the corner of the woods back there," Monroe said during her second conversation with the dispatcher. Watching from C.R. 48, Monroe said she also could see a sheriff deputy's car to the south on C.R. 19. She and her husband tried to guide the search, telling the dispatcher that the wrecked car was directly west of the deputy's car.

Monroe and her husband accurately described the car as a dark blue, older model, four-door Oldsmobile or Pontiac.

As Monroe continued trying to help officers spot the wrecked car, one of the sheriff's deputies broke in on his radio.

"I spoke to a Garrett (police) unit," the deputy said. "The people that are back there have permission to be back there.

"No 10-50," the deputy said, using the police radio code for a traffic accident. "They went back there on purpose."

The dispatcher relayed the deputy's message to Monroe.

"They didn't wreck. They had permission to go out there. They've driven off the road on purpose," the dispatcher told her.

Monroe did not accept the explanation.

"Several of us pulled off the road because we thought it was an accident," she told the dispatcher. "He flew off the road at a high rate of speed ... no brakes applied or anything."

"It sounds weird to me, but that's what the police officer said," the dispatcher told Monroe. The dispatcher said the erratic driving was "probably meant to be some sort of weird joke." He thanked Monroe for calling, and the conversation ended.

Monroe said that moments later a Garrett Police officer approached her and her husband, who were stopped in their pickup truck, and assured them that everything was all right.

Garrett Police Chief Rex Harpel could not be reached for comment.

"I just felt had they investigated a little more, maybe the gentleman would be alive today, and the 14-year-old wouldn't have had to sit in the cold all night," Monroe said in a telephone interview Wednesday morning.

Squire and his grandson had been traveling to Auburn Monday afternoon for an appointment to pay a bill. When they never arrived for the appointment and did not return home, a family member reported their disappearance to the Noble County Sheriff's Department.

The Noble County police issued a report of missing persons shortly after 9:30 p.m. Monday. It said Squire was driving a blue 1989 Oldsmobile Regency 98, but no one connected that clue with Monday's report of a car in a field near Garrett, fitting that description.

Tuesday morning, Noble County Detective Shawn Dunafin remembered hearing at a seminar that missing persons could be found by using cell phone signals.

"We knew that he had a cell phone with him," Dunafin said of Squire. He contacted Verizon, Squire's cell phone carrier.

"They were more than helpful," Dunafin said of Verizon. Early Tuesday afternoon, Verizon informed Dunafin that a cell phone tower had received a signal from Squire's phone at 8:58 p.m. Monday. Dunafin said a sheriff's deputy who was trying to find Squire had tried to call him at precisely that time.

Verizon said that at the time of the call, Squire's phone was three-tenths of a mile southwest of a cell tower behind the Custer Grain elevators at C.R. 48 and C.R. 19.

Dunafin reported Verizon's tip to the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department at 12:40 p.m. Tuesday. By 1:03 p.m. a DeKalb County deputy had found the car, Squire's body and his grandson, precisely where Verizon had predicted.

When Oberholtzer went to the scene and looked from a county road, "I had binoculars, and I still could not see the vehicle. I could see the police units, but I still could not see the Oldsmobile," he said.

He estimated the car was one-half mile from the nearest road.

A DeKalb EMS ambulance took Erich Squire to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne for treatment of exposure to cold. Warner said the boy appeared to be in good condition and walked into the ambulance.

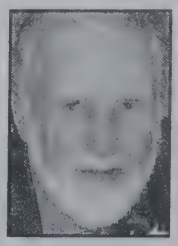
Oberholtzer said the two deputies who responded to the first reports of the crash "would have been out there in a heartbeat" to check the car in the field if they thought someone was in danger.

"The officers on the scene just took the information from the other officer," Oberholtzer said.

Charles Sanderson

FORT WAYNE — Charles H. "Charlie" Sanderson, 72, died Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008.

Born in Van Wert, Ohio, he was president of Superior Manufacturing Division in Fort Wayne for 44 years. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and enjoyed helping those in need.


Mr. Sanderson

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Gloria Sanderson of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, Chuck Jr. and Tammy Sanderson of Auburn and Scott and Jolene Sanderson of New Haven; three daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie and Eric Bruot of Churubusco, Kelly and Dale Ocock of Fort Wayne and Terri and Brad Parker of Columbia City; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Clayton and Liz Sanderson of Leo and Craig and Cindy Sanderson of Auburn; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Carolyn and John Craine of Xenia, Ohio, Carol and Curt Proffitt of Van Wert, Ohio, and Cleona and Frank VanVoorhis of Conway, S.C.; his father, Clarence Sanderson of Van Wert, Ohio; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Carl Sanderson, and mother, Clara Maye Sanderson.

Services will be today at 11 a.m. at Fellowship Missionary Church, 2536 E. Tillman Road. The Rev. David N. DeSelm will officiate. Burial will be in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Mungovan & Sons Memorial Chapel, 2114 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne, is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to Hospice Home.

Jack Chaffins

GARRETT — Jack D. Chaffins, 47, of Garrett died Wednesday evening, Feb. 20, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Chaffins was a welder and a former employee of Garrett Tubular. He helped with the needs of his father at home. He enjoyed life and loved fishing and NASCAR.

He was born Sept. 17, 1960, in Middletown, Ohio, to James and Madeline (Kilgore) Chaffins. They survive in Garrett.

He married Penny Fike on Feb. 3, 1980, and although they are divorced, they have remained lifelong friends.

Also surviving are a son, Ryan Chaffins of Kendallville; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Deb Chaffins of Avilla; a sister and brother-in-law, Kim and Randy Kimball of Waterloo; his companion, Jennifer Jones; and nieces and nephews, Holly Kimball, James Kimball, David Short, Joshua Chaffins, Tyler Chaffins and Calib Chaffins.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Kylie Chaffins, and a brother, Johnny Chaffins.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Sam Weimer will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct an error.*

Damon Casey

AUBURN — Damon W. Casey, 74, of Auburn, died Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008, at his home.

Born in Walkerton, Mr. Casey was a train dispatcher and chief clerk for CSX Transportation, formerly the B&O Railroad, for 41 years, retiring in 1994.

Mr. Casey

He was a member of American Legion Post 178 in Garrett. He was a U.S. Navy 3rd Class Petty Officer from 1953-57 and a plank owner on USS Tom Green County LST 1159.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, mushroom hunting, gardening and bird watching.

He was married April 2, 1960, at the Washington Congregational Church in Toledo, Ohio.

Surviving are his wife, Judy A. Casey of Auburn; two sons, Gregory W. Casey of Auburn and Timothy D. Casey of New Haven; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Lori Casey of Buchanan, Mich.; and five grandchildren, Kylie, Austin, Rilley, Payton and Sean Casey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Henry and Clara Helen Casey, and two brothers, Dennis and Daniel Casey.

Services were conducted Monday at in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Chaplain Paul Marki officiating. Burial was in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett, with military graveside rites by the Garrett post of the American Legion and the U.S. Navy.

Memorials are to Lutheran Worship for Shut Ins or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Duane Squire

AVILLA — Duane C. Squire, 66, of Avilla was found dead on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008, in DeKalb County near Garrett.

Mr. Squire had moved to the area in 1991 from Freeland, Mich.

He had been a doughnut baker for more than 40 years for Dunkin' Donuts in Fort Wayne. He had also worked for TDS Escort Service for a short time.

Mr. Squire

Mr. Squire was a Ham radio operator, enjoyed model trains, CBs, computers and going to the Avilla McDonald's in the morning for coffee.

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville and a member of the 21 Repeater Club.

Born June 13, 1942, in Midland, Mich., he was the son of Fred and Beatrice May (Pease) Squire. He married Julie Foerster at St. John Lutheran Amelith Church in Bay City, Mich., on July 20, 1965. She survives in Avilla.

Also surviving are six sons and a daughter-in-law, John Squire of Churubusco, Michael and Angela Squire of Butler, Randy Squire of Fort Wayne, Timothy Squire of Auburn, Terry Squire of Albion and Scott Squire of Avilla; a daughter, Cathy Squire of LaOtto; five grandchildren, Andrew, Ashley, Erich, Jared, Ricky and Allysa; and a brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Joan Squire of Diablo, Calif.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral time will be announced later.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, 530 N. Main St., Avilla.

To send online condolences or to sign an online register go to brazzellfuneralhome.com.

'It was their call, their territory'

Garrett chief clarifies what officer said in search for victim

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net
AND STAFF REPORTS

GARRETT — A DeKalb County sheriff's deputy may have misunderstood what a Garrett police officer told him Monday, during an incident that ended in a tragic death.

Duane Squire, 66, of Avilla, was found dead outside his car in a field east of Garrett Tuesday. His autistic grandson, Erich Squire, 14, survived after spending a night inside the car in single-digit temperatures.

Squire crashed his car in the field Monday afternoon. At least two people called 911 to tell county police that a car had gone into the field south of C.R. 48.

County officers arrived at the scene minutes later, but did not go into the field to investigate. Instead, they abandoned their search for the crash, believing that the driver of the vehicle was gathering wood.

Squire apparently was able to get out of his car after the crash, but had died by the time officers found him 22 hours later.

A few minutes after beginning a search for Squire Monday, a sheriff's deputy told his dispatcher, "I spoke to a Garrett (police) unit. The people that are back there have permission to be back there.

Squire

"No 10-50," the deputy added, using the radio code for a traffic accident. "They went back there on purpose."

But that's not exactly what the Garrett officer said, Garrett Police Chief Rex Harpel said Thursday in his first comments on the tragedy.

"My officer advised me what he told deputies at the scene," Harpel said.

The chief said a Garrett Police officer went to the crash scene, near C.R. 48 and C.R. 19, in response to a request by the sheriff's department to help in finding the reported traffic

SEE THEIR CALL, PAGE A7

THEIR CALL: *Garrett officer spoke to sheriff's deputy*

FROM PAGE A1

accident.

"He went out and looked on both sides of the road. The deputy was already there," Harpel said of his officer.

The Garrett officer spoke to the sheriff's deputy at the scene, and after no trace of an accident could be found, he began to leave, Harpel said.

Someone in a truck flagged down the Garrett officer as he was about to leave. The driver pointed out a vehicle in the field, but due to its distance from the road, only the top was visible.

The Garrett officer could not tell if the vehicle was a car or truck from his vantage point, Harpel said.

The Garrett officer pointed out the vehicle to the county deputy. He advised him that the Garrett Police Department had responded to a call about someone in the same location about a month earlier. At that time, the people involved had permission to be in the field, Harpel said.

"My officer advised the deputy that if it is the same people (as the previous call), they had permission. The deputy told him 'OK,' and my officer came back to the city," the Garrett chief said.

Harpel said the Garrett officer "relayed the information to a deputy at the scene. It was their call, their territory," he said, referring to the county officers.

Harpel emphasized that his officer merely advised the deputy of the previous incident, rather than assuring him that the vehicle in question had permission to be on the property.

After the deputy told his dispatcher about his conversation with the Garrett officer, the dispatcher relayed the information to eyewitness Cheryl Monroe of Auburn. She was talking with the dispatcher on her cell phone, trying to help deputies find Squire's car, which she could see from C.R. 48.

"They didn't wreck. They had permission to go out there. They've driven off the road on purpose," the dispatcher told Monroe.

Monroe told the dispatcher that she thought Squire's car had crashed, because it left the road at a high rate of speed.

The dispatcher told Monroe the erratic driving was "probably meant to be some sort of weird joke."

The dispatcher's conversations with Monroe and the deputy at the scene are captured in digital audio files. There is no recording of the exchange between the Garrett officer and the county deputy.

"For us, it was just a normal assistance call from the county," Harpel said. "My officer pointed out (the vehicle in the field) to them. The vehicle was out there. We had been out there (last month). If it was the same people, then they had permission — but they couldn't see the vehicle," he said.

"It's very tragic, quite obviously," Harpel said. "We feel bad as to what happened."

An autopsy to determine why Duane Squire died is scheduled for today in Fort Wayne, according to DeKalb County Coroner Jeff Warner.

THE EVENING STAR
February 23 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Dewan Deetz

AUBURN — Dewan O. Deetz, 75, died Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Deetz worked at Cooper Industrial Products for 35 years, retiring in 1995. He was a former volunteer firefighter for the Helmer Fire Department and was a past president of the United Rubber Workers Union local.

He was born April 17, 1932, in Helmer to Lawrence and Daisy (VanPelt) Deetz. They preceded him in death.

He married Virginia Ann Schultz Dickson on Oct. 27, 1983, in Corunna. She died Oct. 31, 1992.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Steven D. and Debra Deetz of Auburn, Allan W. and Joann Deetz of Hamilton, Randy L. and Becky Deetz of Waterloo and Glen O. and Joan Deetz of Auburn; three stepchildren, Craig Dickson and his wife, Candy Dickson, of Auburn, Vickie Messman of New Albany and Debra Miller of Auburn; five grandchildren, nine stepgrandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; six stepgreat-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Deloris Emrick of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Anna Bell Smith, and a brother, Keith Deetz.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor John Napier will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery of rural Corunna.

Calling will be Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
February 24 2008

Salt of the earth farmer set example

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

LIGONIER — Salt of the earth: A thoroughly good person; decent, dependable and unpretentious. There is not a better term to describe the late Gerald McLallin of Ligonier.

A hard worker and devoted family man who gave exorbitant amounts of time and effort to his community and to his church, Gerald McLallin was simply a good human being.

Born to Lawrence and Lura (Steller) McLallin in June 1922, Gerald was baptized at the Sparta United Church of Christ Church in Kimmel. He remained a devoted member for 85 years until his death.

Gerald, the second oldest child, and his two brothers and two sisters grew up on the family farm in York Township.

"He was the talker of the boys," remembers his sister, Bonita Geiger of North Webster. "Gerald was humorous and outgoing."

A strong work ethic and family values were instilled in the McLallin kids through lots of farming and household chores, but they enjoyed an abundance of family gatherings and neighborhood ice cream socials as well, Geiger said.

"I remember ironing a lot of white shirts for the boys" for church and social events, she said.

Gerald attended Cromwell High school, where he was on the basketball team. When he was 19 he met 16-year-old Patricia Warford in Kendallville on a double date. "He always liked to say I was a 10-cent bet," Patricia remembers with a laugh. "There was a bet as to which girl Gerald would decide to ask out and it was me."

The couple fell in love and married at the Kendallville Presbyterian Church in 1943. They enjoyed 65 years together before Gerald's death on Jan. 4.

Gerald and Patricia had a house within walking distance to his parents' farm. They settled down and raised their family — Penny first, followed by Prudy, Paula, Michael, Pia and Peggy Sue.

Between Penny and Prudy, Gerald joined the U.S. Marine Corps and fought two years during World War II. That time of his life was a source of great pride, his wife said.

Upon his return to the States, Gerald became a member of the Cromwell/Sparta Township post of the American Legion. There, between 1945-1985, he served as chaplain and in the color guard. He later joined the Ligonier American Legion post and was a 23-year member, also serving in their color guard, and was a 16 year-member of the Sparta Township Advisory Board.

When he wasn't busy in the fields, he tended a large garden and took care of cattle, chickens and pigs. He sold eggs to Kroger grocery stores and the laying hens eventually made their way to the Campbell Soup Co. But he always found the time for family fun, worshiping God and serving his community, according to his family.

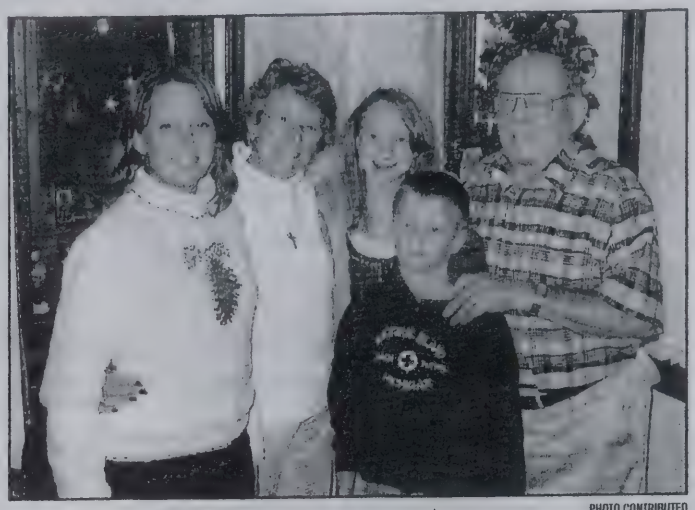


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Four generations of the Gerald McLallin family are represented in this photo. Mr. McLallin is with his granddaughter, Jackie Lee; daughter, Penny Johnson; great-granddaughter, Abby Lee; and great-grandson, Evan Lee.

A 55-member of the Lions Club, he was named president five times, Lion of the Year twice and won other numerous awards including the WP Woods Award. He also drove a school bus for West Noble Schools for 16 years.

"He really enjoyed the kids," Patricia said. "He was the happy kind, easy to be around and talk to."

Gerald took great pride in having straight, weed-free rows in his fields and gardens and maintained a meticulous homestead.

He let the kids — who had the job of pulling weeds — know when they missed one, Penny remembers.

"When we were young, it was Dad that would fix breakfast, find lost shoes, missing homework, and get us off to school," said daughter Paula, and would recharge every afternoon with a 20-minute nap. "Then he was up, and back out in the fields or working in his garden again."

As the children grew, so did their responsibilities. Gerald gave each his or her own calf to raise, which meant feedings before school and cleaning stalls on the weekend — when they weren't in the field driving the tractor or helping load straw and hay.

"Bigger kids, bigger jobs," Penny said.

There was never any sleeping in at the McLellan house, according to Penny.

"On a Saturday morning when we were teens, I would hear Dad downstairs asking Mom where we were. His response might be, 'It's 8 a.m. and there's work to be done.'" Penny remembers. "But there was always time to play, as well."

He enjoyed swimming and would often come home tired and dirty from the fields, gather his children and drive to Diamond Lake.

"One of my fondest memories is listening to my Dad sing in church," Paula said. "Boy, could he sing! He had a beautiful voice."

An ardent St. Louis Cardinals fan, Gerald often watched one game on television while listening to another on the radio, keeping track of all effortlessly.

Gerald's Fourth of July parties were legendary. He enjoyed barbecuing chicken and burgers, accompanied by lots of other great food from the family's garden, for the crowd that visited his home. Later, he would pull up a hay wagon to set off fireworks.

The close-knit McLellan family was shattered when daughter Prudy — in her early 50s — lost her battle to breast cancer and died. "It affected him deeply," Patricia said of Gerald's grief.

"He was a man of honesty and integrity," Penny said of her father. "When he made a decision, he had given it a lot of thought, and his decision was final."

"He was a great man, a wonderful father," she continued. "We carry him with us daily in the way we live our lives."

Tragic death weighs heavy on police

BY DAVE KURTZ
dkurtz@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — DeKalb County Police deputies and dispatchers will sit down today to talk about a death last week that might have been prevented.

Chief Deputy Jay Oberholtzer said he wants to let them express their feelings and discuss ways to prevent future tragedies.

"These are people who are here because their concerns are to help the public, and they feel a personal loss when something like this occurs," Oberholtzer said Friday. "It's something they don't take lightly at all."

Last week's tragedy began Monday afternoon, when Duane Squire, 66, of Avilla crashed his car east of Garrett for unknown reasons. Two witnesses called 911 to tell county police that a car had gone into a field south of C.R. 48.

County officers arrived at the scene minutes later, but did not go into the field to investigate. They abandoned their search for the crash, mistakenly believing that the driver of the vehicle was gathering wood.

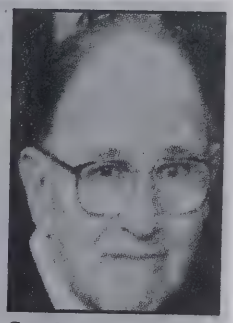
Squire died alongside his car before officers found him 22 hours later. His autistic grandson, Erich Squire, 14, survived a night inside the car in freezing temperatures. An autopsy Friday could not pinpoint the cause of Duane Squire's death.

"It's such a jolt for them to have something like this happen, because they're out there for the complete opposite purpose – to save lives," Oberholtzer said. "We've got excellent officers. These people are just so dedicated."

Oberholtzer has been analyzing the sheriff's department's response to the situation since the middle of last week, listening to police radio traffic and telephone conversations with witnesses.

"I've been playing these tapes over and over again … to see if

SEE POLICE, PAGE A8



Squire

POLICE: *Responding officers had at least two years of experience*

FROM PAGE A1

there's anything we missed — anything we need to change — because it concerns me an awful lot," Oberholtzer said.

The officers involved included one road deputy with about two years of experience and another with four to five years on duty, Oberholtzer said. The dispatcher who handled the incident has more than 10 years at the microphone.

"This incident is always going to be popping into their heads whenever they respond to anything" in the future, Oberholtzer said. "It's going to change the way they do their jobs for the rest of their lives."

Oberholtzer said he does not know what procedures might change after today's debriefing about the incident. He does not expect any disciplinary actions.

"This concerns us so much, that I'm sure they're going to take whatever action is necessary to not be put in this position again," he said.

"The appearance or inference that they may not have been as concerned as they should have been is just not accurate at all."

Betty Swenson

FORT WAYNE — Betty Jean Swenson, 80, of Fort Wayne died Sunday morning, Feb. 24, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Swenson was a homemaker and a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn.

Mrs. Swenson

She was born June 30, 1927, in Woodruff to Virgil and Ruth (Bassett) Holsinger.

She married Alden M. Swenson on Dec. 29, 1946, in Howe. He survives. They celebrated 61 years of marriage in December.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Martin and Kathy Swenson, Allen Swenson and Gary and Janelle Swenson, all of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Vicki and Ron Marhenke of Waterloo; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Martina and Kurt Tippman, Beau and Cindy Swenson, Heather Marhenke, Brett and Erin Marhenke, Staci Swenson, Daniel Swenson and Tyler Swenson; six great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Ralph and Jean Holsinger of Mongo; and a sister, Maxine Hackett of LaGrange.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Holsinger; two sisters, Marjorie Ray and Margaret Woodmansee; and her parents.

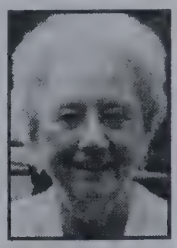
Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn. The Rev. Stephen Kummernuss and Mark Zion will officiate. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the Arthritis Foundation or Parkview Hospice.

Betty Strock

LEO — Betty L. Strock, 87, of Leo died Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mrs. Strock

Born in DeKalb County, she was a secretary at Leo Elementary School for 30 years, retiring in 1990. She previously was employed at Bendix in South Bend during World War II.

She was a member of Leo United Methodist Church for 50 years, was the financial secretary at the church and served on its building committee several times.

Surviving are her husband, Ernest "Ernie" Strock of Leo; a son, Tom Sebert of Spencerville; her stepchildren, Rita Walter of Auburn and Kevin and Randy Strock, both of Crossville, Tenn.; three sisters, Dorothy Willibey of Leo, Ruth Lucille Hollinger of Fort Wayne and June Chambers of Baltimore, Md.; two grandchildren, Melissa Lasher of Poughkeepsie, N.Y,. and Christina Sebert of Mount Laurel, N.J.; and two great-grandchildren, Allison and Chad Lasher of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Park Sebert, in 1967, and a stepson, Gary Strock.

Services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 4-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials to are to Leo United Methodist Church.

Louis Arcioni

AUBURN — Louis R. Arcioni, 80, of Auburn and formerly of Muskegon, Mich., died Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008.

Mr. Arcioni worked for Artistic Carton, formally Muskegon Paper Box, for 49 years and retired in 1990. He had lived in Auburn for the past 22 years.

He was an avid sportsman and loved to golf, fish and hunt. He also loved spending time with his family. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Church and the Knights of Columbus. He was the president of Aging & Home Services and the Heimach Senior Center in Auburn.

He was born Jan. 30, 1928, in Muskegon to Frank and Zelda (Cuykendall) Arcioni.

On Aug. 14, 1948, he married Lillian W. Allen in Muskegon. She survives

Also survving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Frank and Patricia Arcioni of Marshall, Mich., and Louis II and Annette Arcioni of Bradenton, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Ernest Davis of Muskegon, and Anna and Mark Randall Fox of Ruckersville, Va.; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and four sisters and two brothers-in-law, Rosemary Wiard, Delores Moore, Zelda and Wally Tiefenthal and Francis and Jerry Fernette.

He was preceded in death by a son, James Arcioni, in 1972; a brother, William Arcioni; and a sister, and Cathleen Link.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church with the Rev. Father Michael Olson officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at The Lee Chapel, Sytsema Funeral Homes Inc., 6291 S. Harvey St., Muskegon.

Memorials are to The American Heart Association or the Heimach Senior Center in Auburn.

An online guestbook may be signed at www.sytsemafh.com.

Conde Guinn

FORT WAYNE — Conde L. Guinn, 66, of Fort Wayne and Port Charlotte, Fla., died Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008, at his home in Port Charlotte.

Mr. Guinn

Born Oct. 13, 1941, in Auburn, Mr. Guinn served in the U.S. Army. He retired in 2002 from SuperValu Foods.

Surviving are his wife, Judy A.; three sons, Mark Snyder of Fort Wayne, Allen Snyder of Holmes Beach, Fla., and Shawn Guinn of Albuquerque, N.M.; three grandchildren, Dan, Nate and Rachael Guinn; and a brother and sister-in-law, Rodney and Theresa Guinn of Port Charlotte, Fla.

He was preceded in death by a son, Michael Guinn, and his parents George and Vivienne Guinn.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne. Pastor William Lepley will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 5-8 pm. and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana and Tidewell Hospice of Port Charlotte, Fla.

Julee Lodder

MICHIGAN CITY — Julee Ann Lodder, 74, of Michigan City, formerly of Fort Wayne, Fremont, Auburn and South Bend, died Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, at the Life Care Center of Michigan City.

Mrs. Lodder

Mrs. Lodder had worked at Lincoln National Bank in Fort Wayne, and was also a homemaker.

She was a 1952 graduate of Fremont High School. She attended International Business College in Fort Wayne and Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich. She loved music, playing the piano and attending the theater. She enjoyed hers sons' activities and accomplishments.

She was born Nov. 3, 1933, in Ray, Mich., to Carlyle and Juanita (Pridgeon) Mitchell. Both preceded her in death. She married James F. Lodder on June 1, 1956, in Angola. He died Nov. 2, 2006.

She is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, James and Shari Lodder of Fremont, Jerry Lodder of Las Cruces, N.M., and John and Rochelle Lodder of Chicago; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Janet Goodwin of Angola and Rose and Roger Burlingame of Fremont; and a brother and sister-in-law, Max and Thelma Mitchell of Fremont.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont, with the Rev. Keith Olson officiating. Burial will be in Ray-Covenanter Cemetery in Fremont.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Diabetes Association in care of the Steuben County Community Foundation.

THE EVENING STAR
February 27 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Robert Conwell

CHURUBUSCO — Robert E. Conwell, 61, of rural Churubusco died at 12:26 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He had been in failing health for some time and had been hospitalized for the past eight days.

Mr. Conwell

He had been an owner/operator truck driver for most of his life and had lived in the Churubusco area the past 35 years. He had also worked for Evans Equipment in Butler, retiring from there in 2004 due to ill health.

He was a member of Teamsters Local 414. He was also a member of UNISAC Outlaw Sprints, the National Tractor Pullers Association, and the Slaves and Masters bowling league.

Mr. Conwell attended Churubusco Church of the Nazarene.

He enjoyed camping, fishing, pitching horseshoes and racing.

He was born in Muncie on June 8, 1946, to Harry and Neva (Bright) Conwell. He married Doris Lower on June 9, 1965, in Angola. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Roberta Conwell of Churubusco; two sons, Scott Conwell of Churubusco and Joe Conwell of Columbia City; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Frank and Georgie Conwell, Max and Ella Conwell, and Mike and Cindy Conwell, all of Muncie; a sister, Sheila McGarey of Muncie; three stepbrothers; two stepsisters; and six grandchildren, Jamie Conwell, JoLynn Conwell, Daielle Conwell, Dakota Conwell, Cody Conwell and Bailey Conwell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Harry Conwell Jr., Danny Conwell and Bill Conwell; and two sisters, Sharon Conwell and Sue Davenport.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with Pastors Paul D. White and Carl Kallsen officiating. Burial will be in Eel River Cemetery near Churubusco.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or the National Kidney Foundation.

Send condolences online at www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Terry Crabill

AUBURN — Terry D. Crabill, 53, of Auburn died Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008, in Auburn.

Mr. Crabill had been president of Coreteck in Fort Wayne for two years. He previously was a supervisor at Auburn Foundry for 35 years.

Mr. Crabill

He was secretary of AFS, secretary of the Midwest Regional Conference of Foundrymen and a member of Shifters Car Club and Jaycees. He also was a member of the County Line Church of God in rural Auburn.

He was born July 3, 1954, in Auburn and graduated from DeKalb High School in 1973.

Surviving are his wife, Julie Crabill of Auburn; his parents, Alva and Bonnie Crabill of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Nick and Shannon Scheumann of Auburn; a son, Stuart Crabill of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Doug and Cheryl Crabill of West Lafayette; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Steve and Sally Hoeppner of Berne, Mark and Penny Newlin of Tell City and Greg and Jeri Hippensteel of Columbia City; and a brother-in-law and his wife, Gary and Deb Robbins of Garrett.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in County Line Church of God. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 1-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the church.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Allen Clare

AUBURN — Allen M. Clare, 80, of Auburn died Monday, Feb. 25, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Born in Flatrock, Miss., Mr. Clare was a truck driver with Roadway for 18 years and Motorfreight for 18 years. He was a greeter at Wal-Mart in Auburn for seven years.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. He was a member of Mizpah Shrine (for 30 years), York Rite, Knights Templar and Blue Lodge and was a 32nd Degree Mason. He also was a member of Teamsters Local 24.

His wife, Gloria Clare of Auburn, survives.

He was preceded in death by three sisters and two brothers.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Northshore Animal League.

Hilda Engle

LAGRANGE — Hilda L. Engle, 98, of LaGrange and formerly of Shipshewana died at 7:15 a.m. Saturday at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange.

Mrs. Engle moved to the LaGrange area from Swan Township in Noble County 50 years ago.

She was a homemaker and an avid doll collector.

She was born Aug. 3, 1909, to Hoin and Elsie (Long) Marsh. She married Dallas Engle on Sept. 26, 1931, in Jackson, Mich. He died July 10, 1988.

Surviving are a daughter, Rosemary Young of Nevada; a brother, Everett Marsh of Albion; and three grandchildren, Christopher DeGroot, Michael DeGroot and Lisa Allred, all of California.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Dale Marsh.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with Associate Pastor Denise Heller of First United Methodist Church in LaGrange officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Chapel Cemetery near Garrett.

Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the charity of the donor's choice.

Send condolences to the family at condolences@earthlink.net.

Randy Rude

FORT WAYNE — Randy C. Rude, 64, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn, died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Rude

Mr. Rude worked as a supervisor of manufacturing at Auburn Gear for 40 years, retiring in 2005. He was a graduate of Waterloo High School, a member of the Auburn Elks Lodge 1978 of Auburn and the Sons of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

He was born Sept. 21, 1943, in Marquette, Mich., to Chalbert R. Rude and June M. (Downing) Rude-Sebert. They preceded him in death. He married Barbara L. Hess May 14, 1966, at Maple Grove United Methodist Church. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jeffrey A. and Jacki Rude of Fort Wayne and Michael S. Rude of Delta, Ohio; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Jacob Rude, Zachary Rude and Malori Rude, Rachael and Ben Keller, Kristin and Jon Sorg, Joshua and Liz Rude and Jeanette Rude; two great-grandchildren, Hannah Keller and Carson Rude; a sister and brother-in-law, Sandy and Don Yarlot of Auburn; a niece and her husband, Tisha (Yarlot) and Stuart Kruse; and a nephew and his wife, David and Christi Yarlot.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Kenneth G. Sebert, and a brother, Ricky L. Sebert.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Stuart Kruse officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home. An Elks service will be at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne and the American Cancer Society.

Marvel M. McCann

FORT WAYNE — Marvel M. McCann, 86, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, at Canterbury Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. McCann was a homemaker, and she attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born Jan. 31, 1921, in York to Jacob A. and Laura B. (Bunce) Smith. They preceded her in death.

She married Raymond D. McCann Dec. 25, 1940, in Butler. He preceded her in death Aug. 5, 1981.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Larry D. and Nora McCann of Butler and Jeffrey E. and Marsha McCann of Hamilton Lake; a daughter and son-in-law, Linda S. and James Singer of Huntertown; seven grandchildren, Jamie McCann, Amy Prosser, Brett Singer, Renee Russell, Minde Raney, Carrie Orr and Kristie Laub; and three great-grandchildren, Xavier Orr, Lynzi Laub and Brady Laub.

Mrs. McCann was preceded in death by two brothers, Willis L. Smith and Kenneth Smith, and a sister, Gladys M. Courtney.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Bruce Prosser officiating.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Butler Cemetery in Butler.

Memorials are to the Allen County Cancer Society.

John Hass

AUBURN — John E. Haas, 68, of Auburn and formerly of Garrett died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008, at 9:39 p.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Haas was a delivery man at Erie Haven Concrete in Fort Wayne for 27 years, retiring in 2005.

Mr. Hass

Mr. Haas was born Nov. 11, 1939, in Warsaw to Carl F. and Clara (Mattix) Haas. His father survives. He married Virginia McClish Sept. 7, 1974, in Auburn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are his stepmother, Betty Haas of Fort Wayne; a son and daughter-in-law, John D. and Debra Haas of Coldwater, Mich.; a daughter, Cynthia L. Imbody of Columbia City; a grandson, Steven Imbody of Columbia City; a brother, Earl Haas of Columbia City; two sisters, Sharon Nokes and Carol Minnick, both of Fort Wayne; two stepsons, David McClish of Garrett and Rick McClish of Auburn; two stepdaughters and their spouses, Robin McClish of Garrett and Valerie and Mark Grubb of Kendallville; 10 stepgrandchildren; and two stepgreat-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his mother and two brothers, Charles and David Haas.

Calling will be from Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Services will be at 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will take place at a later date.

Memorials are to Thomas Funeral Home to assist with expenses.

Condolences may be sent and an online register book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with revised information from the funeral home.*

Randy Rude

FORT WAYNE — Randy C. Rude, 64, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn, died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Rude worked as a supervisor of manufacturing at Auburn Gear for 40 years, retiring in 2005. He was a graduate of Waterloo High School, a member of the Auburn Elks Lodge 1978 of Auburn and the Sons of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Mr. Rude

He was born Sept. 21, 1943, in Marquette, Mich., to Chalbert R. Rude and June M. (Downing) Rude-Sebert. They preceded him in death. He married Barbara L. Hess May 14, 1966, at Maple Grove United Methodist Church. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jeffrey A. and Jacki Rude of Fort Wayne and Michael S. Rude of Delta, Ohio; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Jacob Rude, Zachary Rude and Malori Rude, Rachael and Ben Keller, Kristin and Jon Sorg, Joshua and Liz Rude and Jeanette Rude; two great-grandchildren, Hannah Keller and Carson Rude; a sister and brother-in-law, Sande and Don Yarlot of Auburn; a niece and her husband, Tisha (Yarlot) and Stuart Kruse; a nephew and his wife, David and Christi Yarlot.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Kenneth G. Sebert, and a brother, Ricky L. Sebert.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Stuart Kruse officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home. An Elks service will be at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne and the American Cancer Society.

Donald Tuttle

WATERLOO — Donald L. Tuttle, 56, of Waterloo died Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, at Marion General Hospital in Marion.

He was born Oct. 6, 1951, in Garrett to Theron Tuttle and Eleanor (Cobbs) Tuttle-Fee. His father preceded him in death and his mother survives in Waterloo.

Mr. Tuttle

Other survivors include a son and his girlfriend, Erik O. Watson and Shawn Bowman of Corunna, and her daughter, Lashawna Bowman; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Christine and Howard Middaugh of Auburn and Rene Maxwell of Waterloo; and a nephew and his wife, Derrik T. and Carissa Maxwell of Auburn.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Tom Neddersen officiating.

Calling will be Monday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR
March 2 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Ina German remembered for spirit

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FLINT — Her daughters remember Ina German for many things, but it was her spirit of adventure, even into her old age, that endeared her to many.

"She did unbelievable things, and if she hadn't done it, she'd love to try it," Betty Jo Rodgers said of her mother.

Mary Ann Morgan added, "Even when she was older, she would hit balls in the batting cage or go out and hit balls on the driving range without ever having played golf before."

Mrs. German, who served as the Sunday school superintendent for Flint United Methodist Church and taught children for more than 40 years there, died Feb. 14 at her daughter, Carole Sue Shank's, home. She was 93.

Beyond instructions at the church, Mrs. German played teacher to neighbors and her children, and their children, for far longer.

Shank and Rodgers remembered how she would teach not only all of her children, but the neighbor's children, to square dance, and was teaching children how to pull taffy and do the jitterbug very late in life.

"She'd clear out all of the furniture and have a dance," Shank said. "She had a dance one time for a neighbor's German exchange student."

Morgan said she taught many of her nieces and nephews to bake doughnuts last year, and her grandchildren, whom she taught to cook, had used her recipes for a family gathering in honor of Mrs. German.

Her daughters also remembered some of the little things she would do to brighten people's lives.

Rodgers said she always would pick fresh strawberries for children in the area. Mrs. German made it a point, Shank said, to send get-well or "thinking-of-you" cards to those in nursing homes or shut-ins. Whenever she would bake pies or cookies, she always made some for neighbors as well.

"It was just her way," Morgan said.

Deborah Murphy of Shipshewana remembered every time she, or one of her siblings, arrived at summer camp, there would be a letter waiting for them from their mother.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ina German, right, taught Sunday School at Flint United Methodist Church for many years. Playing piano is Dorthea Fisher, German's friend and neighbor. The two worked together for 55 years.

She'd also look in on neighbors as a social correspondent for the Steuben Republican and later the Herald-Republican.

It wasn't all little things like that, though, Morgan and Shank noted. "She took care of her mother-in-law when she was bed-ridden," Morgan noted. Shank said that Mrs. German took in the baby of a transient woman who had come through town and became ill.

Mrs. German came from a legacy of strong women. Her mother, Anabel Callender, took care of Ina while operating her husband's hardware store on Angola's Public Square after Ina's father died when she was only 3 years old. Callender died when Ina was 30.

"She faced a lot of years when most of us would have mothers," Rodgers noted, "and she came through."

Mrs. German's marriage to her husband, Murl, lasted 68 years. He died in 2000.

"Through thick and thin they loved each other," Rodgers said.

Morgan said the same: "She just seemed to love her husband and family no matter what."

Shank said her mother never explicitly told her daughters how to act, but knew that she was serving as a role model.

"She never really fussed about it, but she made sure that we all knew it as a lesson," she said.

Through multiple generations of her own family, as well as helping to teach those of others, Mrs. German saw others as equals. "She pretty well accepted all the kids the way they were," Shank said.

THE EVENING STAR
March 3 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Helen Proctor

AUBURN — Helen D. Proctor, 94, died Saturday, March 1, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She owned and operated the Bird Cage Beauty Shop in Butler for many years. She was a member of Butler United Methodist Church.

She was born Jan. 29, 1914, in Butler to David and Bessie (McKenzie) Bonecutter.

Surviving are a son, Harold Blaker of Florida, and two nieces, Kay Beard of Fort Wayne and Jean Baber of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, Glen, Harold and Virgil Bonecutter.

Memorial services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Butler United Methodist Church, with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Humane Shelter.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

Wayne Trowbridge

LAGRANGE — Wayne Trowbridge, 67, of LaGrange died Monday, March 3, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Trowbridge

Mr. Trowbridge moved to Auburn from Columbus, Ind., where he taught school for 26 years. After moving to Auburn, he was a supervisor for DeKalb County Family and Children Services.

He was a member of the teachers union and active in Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

He was born Feb. 9, 1941, to Homer and Clara (Gammon) Trowbridge. He married Charlotte Uhl in Bradford on May 29, 1965. She preceded him in death on March 27, 1977.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and Robert Campbell of LaGrange; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Gordon Trowbridge of Alexandria, Va., and Steve and Michelle Trowbridge of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren; three brothers, Dean Trowbridge and Don Trowbridge, both of Washington, Ind., and Jerry Trowbridge of Bloomington; and three sisters, Arlene of Indianapolis, Delores of Oden and Phyllis of Washington, Ind.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Frank and Robert Trowbridge.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Bradford, with Father John Fink officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Bradford.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Fruriip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange and one hour prior to services Friday at the church. A Rosary service will be at 4 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
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Ray Ramey

KENDALLVILLE — Ray Ramey, 57, of Kendallville died Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Mr. Ramey

Mr. Ramey had been employed with Quick Tanks in Kendallville for 22 years.

He loved deer hunting, fishing and enjoyed taking care of his flower gardens and the pond in his backyard.

Mr. Ramey was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

He was born in Kendallville on Feb. 3, 1951, to Curtis and Laura (Terry) Ramey. He married Ruth Ann Rappel on March 29, 1970, in Clintwood, Va. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Tina and Jack Lough of Albion; three granddaughters, Kara, Ashlyn and Erica Fields, all of Albion; six sisters and brothers-in-law, Edna and Jacob Blevins of Auburn, Evie and Don Zolman of LaGrange, Faye and AC Howard of Garrett, Ky., Clausie and Rick Cox of Lark Lane, Ky., Brenda and Willie Patton of Hueysville, Ky., and Barb and Tom Stanford of Kendallville; and a brother, Bradford Ramey of Hueysville.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Claude Ramey; and a sister, Sherleen Rose.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville with the Rev. Paul B. Griebel officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be his nephews, Jeff Zolman, Shane Hall, Terry Marcum, Brandon Marcum, Joseph Stanford and Bob Ritchie.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to St. John Lutheran Church or School or to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

View a video tribute (after Thursday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Gerald Dyson

ROANN — Gerald Lloyd Dyson, 86, of Roann died Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 8:15 p.m. at Wabash County Hospital.

Mr. Dyson

Mr. Dyson was a 1940 graduate of Roann High School and attended Manchester College. He was a farmer. He also worked for Cyclone Seeder in Urbana and Laurer Farm Center in Roann. He drove a school bus for Roann and Metro Schools for 31 years. He also worked for VanBuskirk Asphalt Sealing.

He was the official basketball scorer for Roann and Northfield high schools for many years. He also was a member of the Roann First Brethren Church.

He was born Feb. 25, 1922, in Wabash County to William and Mary (Clock) Dyson.

He married Maxine (Yarian) Cole in North Manchester on Dec. 7, 1946. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Gene and Linda Dyson of Logansport, Ken and Bonny Dyson of Butler and Steven and Kim Dyson of Franklin; 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; a great-great-granddaughter; and a brother, Robert W. Dyson of Wabash.

He was preceded in death by six brothers, a sister and a grandson, Christopher Dyson.

Services will be Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Roann First Brethren Church in Roann. Burial will be in Roann Community Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-8 p.m. at Grandstaff-Hentgen Roann Chapel, 335 S. Chippewa Road, Roann, and Saturday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the church

A memorial guest book may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

State Sen. Ford dies after cancer battle

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — State Sen. David Ford, a former prosecutor who was a leading legislator on technology issues, died Wednesday at age 59 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Ford, a Republican, died at his Hartford City home with his family, Senate officials said. Ford had been absent from the Senate since January, when his family confirmed he was critically ill with cancer.

Ford

Black bows were placed on Senate doors Wednesday, and flowers were on Ford's desk in the Senate chambers. Senators observed a moment of silence for Ford, whom they remembered as a hardworking, honest gentleman.

Ford spent the last several weeks with his family and was able to attend his son's wedding, said Senate President Pro Tem David Long, R-Fort Wayne.

Ford would spend hours in the Statehouse personally responding to e-mails. Lawmakers called him a "road warrior" for the amount of time he spent driving to town hall meetings and visiting with constituents.

"He was a remarkable public servant," Long said. "He will be terribly missed."

Ford was the Blackford County prosecutor before being elected to the Senate in 1994. He represented District 19, which includes all or parts of Adams, Allen, Blackford, Grant and Wells counties in northeastern Indiana.

Republican Rep. Jeff Espich of Uniondale, who visited Ford often after he became ill, said the General Assembly lost its best expert on technology issues.

"He was far ahead of anyone in terms of those kinds of issues," Espich said.

Gov. Mitch Daniels ordered flags at the Statehouse to be flown at half-staff through the day of Ford's funeral.

"I haven't met a more insightful or harder working member of the General Assembly," Daniels said of Ford. "I'm not sure a person like Dave Ford can be replaced."

Ford, who did not miss a single vote in the Senate last year, had not been in the Senate since Jan. 15. On Feb. 21 he wrote a letter to the editor thanking his constituents for their support, e-mails, cards and prayers.

"Obviously, this is not the way I would prefer to be representing you because I prefer being in the middle of the fray as opposed to the sidelines, but it is the best I can do for now," Ford wrote.

Services for Ford will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Muncie. Details were not immediately announced.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Joyce; a daughter, Kelly Konzel of Granger; three sons, Jeff Ford of Chicago; Andrew Ford of Indianapolis; Matthew Ford of Marion; and two grandchildren.

Republican precinct committee members in District 19 will meet to select to complete Ford's term, which lasts until November 2010.

Vivian Marks

LAGRANGE — Vivian E. Marks, 90, of LaGrange died Thursday, March 6, 2008, of natural causes at Life Care Center of LaGrange.

Mrs. Marks

Mrs. Marks was a homemaker her whole life. Along with being a homemaker, she enjoyed crossword puzzles, sewing and flowers.

She was born Oct. 5, 1917, in LaGrange County to Virgil and Eva (Rossman) Marks.

She married Richard D. Marks on Sept. 30, 1944, in LaGrange. He preceded her in death on July 17, 2005.

Surviving are two sons, Richard Marks Jr. of LaGrange and Maurice Marks of Brown County; one daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and John "Bud" Hopper of LaGrange; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Hilda Baird of LaGrange, Carol and Richard Wagner of Huntertown, and Mildred Zollman of Olympia, Wash.; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Kenneth Marks of Auburn and Wayne and Gloria Marks of LaGrange; seven grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Besides her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one brother, Keith Marks.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home, LaGrange, with the Rev. Brian VanOsdol of LaGrange First Church of God officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery, LaGrange.

Calling will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

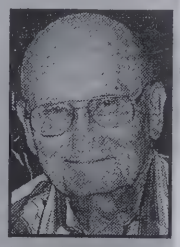
Memorials may be directed to the charity of donor's choice.

Condolences may sent to the family at carneyfrost@earthlink.net

Arrangements are by Carney-Frost Funeral Home, LaGrange.

Wilbur Pfierman

AUBURN — Wilbur J. Pfierman, 83, of Auburn died Thursday, March 6, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.


Mr. Pfierman

Mr. Pfierman worked for Fruehauf Trailer in Fort Wayne, retiring in 1987 after 37 1/2 years. He also farmed all his life.

He was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church and IOOF Lodge 180 of Angola.

He was born Nov. 30, 1924, in Auburn to Ernest and Bessie (Reasner) Pfierman, who preceded him in death.

He married Wilma Krebs on June 25, 1949, in Simpson Methodist Church in Fort Wayne. She survives.

He is also survived by a son, Jack Pfierman of Auburn.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Auburn First United Methodist Church with the Rev. O. Dale Williams officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the church or American Diabetes Association.

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March 8 2008

Delores Smith

AUBURN — Delores "Jeanie" Smith, 85, of Auburn died Thursday, March 6, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Smith lived most of her life in and around New Castle, with the exception of 11 years in Clearwater, Fla., and the past 15 years in Auburn.

She was a graduate of Ball State University in Muncie.

She was director of dietary at Henry County Memorial Hospital, New Castle, for 31 years.

She was a member of South Memorial Church in New Castle and Indian Village Church of God in Auburn.

She belonged to Eastern Star Lodge 116 of New Castle and Eastern Star Lodge 196 of Tampa, Fla.

She was a member of Rose City Home Economics Club and Karing-Teenagers, both of New Castle.

She was born May 12, 1922, in New Castle to Milford F. and Rina R. (Cochran) Good. They are both deceased.

She was also preceded in death by her two husbands, Charles E.. Johnson and Beecher G. Smith.

Surviving are a daughter, Tammara Jean Yingst of Muncie; two daughters-in-law, Charlotte Johnson Jackson of Knightstown and Linda Johnson of Auburn; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a sister, Minnie Dudley of New Castle.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Bob Johnson and Jim Johnson; two brothers, George Good and Marvin Good; and one sister, Chelcie O'Brien.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ray Warner officiating. Burial will be at 3 p.m. in South Mound Cemetery, New Castle.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service from 10-11 a.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Indian Village Church of God or Eastern Star Lodge 116 of New Castle.

THE EVENING STAR
March 9 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Brilliant, kind, excited about life

Dr. Frank Cyran left his mark on northeast Indiana community

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — Dr. Francis "Frank" Cyran had the rare ability to instantly connect with people and make them feel "as if they mattered."

Cyran always had time to listen — to patients, friends, family and strangers. Those who came in contact with Cyran were captured by his brilliance, inspired by his enthusiasm for life and touched by his spirit of generosity.

Dr. Cyran

Cyran — a psychiatrist who worked at the Northeastern Center for 21 years and was director of the regional mental health center's inpatient hospital in Auburn — died in a one-vehicle accident Feb. 6 on C.R. 27 near his home in rural Waterloo. He was 55.

His tragic death shocked all who had worked with him — including medical and mental health professionals, officials in the judicial system, patients and co-workers.

Although Cyran was born in Cherry Point, N.C., his father and mother, Frank and Jean Cyran, moved when he was young, and settled in West Virginia to raise their eight children — Frank, Deb, Mark, Eric, Amy, Marcia, Adam and Alan.

"We were a very close-knit family," said Cyran's sister, Deb Cyran of Vienna, W.Va.

Their dad worked for Union Carbide, and the family was forever changed when he was killed by a drunk driver in 1969. Frank Cyran was 16 at the time.

"We were more serious after that," Deb said. "Frank was still very funny, but there was a serious side to him that was created when our dad died."

"Frank was always by my side, looking out for me," said Deb, who was 18 months younger than her older brother.

"He was so funny. I remember when I first figured out how funny Frank was. I was about 12. I found myself wondering if mom and dad knew" how funny Frank was, Deb said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Francis "Frank" Cyran is surrounded by his children during a summer boat outing. Clockwise from top left are Michael, Libby, Frank, Kate, Hannah and Jake.

His family soon discovered that Frank was not only funny, but brilliant. Once, when Cryan was in high school, circumstances caused him to step in for his teacher. He ended up teaching the physics class to his peers. He was a humble man and almost never mentioned that he was valedictorian of his class and an all-state basketball award winner.

"All of the girls had a crush on him," Deb remembers. "He was so smart and nice to everyone he met."

Frank Cyran served as a major in the U.S. Air Force from June 1979 until June 1987 and received his schooling in psychiatry while in the service. It was during an era when military records regarding medical or mental illness were open books. Cyran became an advocate for patient confidentiality and was interviewed by Diane Sawyer for the "20/20" news show.

Terri Christ, area director of the DeKalb branch of the Northeastern Center, worked with Cyran for 13 years.

He was funny, very well-liked by both patients and co-workers and always had a smile, Christ said.

"His door was always open, and he was very creative at coming up with solutions that the rest of us had not thought of," Christ said.

"He was very approachable and will be deeply missed," she said. "He was extremely knowledgeable and a team player, always open to talking with staff. He had a large caseload, but was able to multi-task and did it very well."

Patients who attended Cyran's funeral said they considered him just as much a friend as their doctor. Patients' comments after his death were testimony to the doctor's caring attitude. Christ said they included: "He always took the time to listen to us;" "I've seen a lot of doctors, but no one got it right until Dr. Cyran;" "He always took time to listen to us;" and "He gave me my life back."

"What I loved about my brother was the way his eyes popped when he was talking to someone," Deb Cyran said. "He was always so excited about life and really cared about what people had to say."

Cyran married Susan Smith Cobbs on Dec. 6, 2004, at Wing Haven Nature Preserve near Angola, and they had a

SEE CYRAN, PAGE

Anna Long

CHURUBUSCO — Anna Lynn Long, an infant, was stillborn Wednesday, March 5, 2008, in DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Surviving are her mother, Josie M. Long of Churubusco; father, Henry Gibson of Garrett; grandparents Douglas and Margie Long of Churubusco and Art and Sally Gibson of Waterloo; maternal great-grandmother Pat Buckler of Marion; aunt and uncle Joy and Richard Justice of Fort Wayne; uncle Douglas Long Jr. of Garrett and many great-aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in the Eel River Baptist Church on Carroll Road with Pastor Kerry L. Niman officiating. Burial will be in Eel River Cemetery.

Calling will be in the church on Monday from noon until 2 p.m.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
March 10 2008

Larry Lantz

AUBURN — Larry D. Lantz, 72, of Auburn died Friday, March 7, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Lantz

Mr. Lantz was employed with Dana Corp. starting in 1959 and retiring from the Lima, Ohio, plant in 1994.

He was a 1953 Garrett High School graduate. His memberships include St. Mark's Lutheran Church and 35 years with the Auburn Kiwanis Club.

He was born April 22, 1935, in Garrett to Clarence and Dorothy (Roach) Lantz.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Judith Lantz of Auburn; four sons and three daughters-in-law, Michael Lantz of Indianapolis, Roger and Diana Lantz of Fort Wayne, Ronald and Christina Lantz of Indianapolis, and Donald and Elaine Lantz of Auburn; nine grandchildren, Kelly, Mark, Tyler, Matthew, Ryan, Janelle, Alex, Jordan, and Holly; a brother, Lawrence Lantz of Garrett; and six nieces and nephews.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Stephen K. Kummernuss will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 5-8 p.m. and Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Auburn Kiwanis Club, St. Mark's Lutheran Church or the Dekalb County Humane Society.

Julie Voirol

CORUNNA — Julie A. Voirol, 46, of Corunna died Sunday, March 9, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Voirol

Mrs. Voirol was head custodian for Waterloo Elementary School and the DeKalb Central School Corp. for the past 13 years. She attended Victory Baptist Church in Waterloo and loved animals, grooming dogs and traveling.

She was born March 26, 1961, in Kendallville to Henry Stevens and Emma (Gamble) Harter. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in Corunna.

Also surviving are two daughters, Amanda Jo Faulkner of Indianapolis and Chandra Elise Voirol of Corunna; a sister and brother-in-law, Linda S. and Steve Coons of Auburn; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Calvin W. and Sandy Stevens of Garrett and Tim J. Stevens of Indianapolis.

She also was preceded in death by her stepfather, Joe Harter, and a sister, Rita D. Cox.

Services will be Thursday at 3 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Mike Sassanella officiating. Burial will be in the Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Chandra E. Voirol Education Fund, in care of ProFed, 506 N. Grandstaff Drive, Auburn.

Darlene Williams

TUCSON, Ariz. — Darlene Bock Knight Williams, 70, of Tucson, Ariz., died Saturday, March 8, 2008, after a brief illness.

Mrs. Williams was a 1956 graduate of Garrett High School.

Surviving are her husband, Frank Williams of Tucson, Ariz.; two sons, Scott R. Knight of Arizona and Robert Knight of Colorado; a daughter and son-in-law, Angela and Bruce Bergeman of Florida; two sisters, Mary Lou Dibble of Auburn, and Sue Ann Taylor of Youngstown, Ohio; two grandsons; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond "Dutch" and Clarbel "Susie" Bock of Garrett, and a son, John Knight Jr.

There will be no services.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
March 12 2008

Dorothy Frazee

AUBURN — Dorothy Frazee, 79, of Auburn died Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Frazee

Mrs. Frazee worked for the city, county and state highway departments.

She was a 1947 graduate of St. Joe High School and attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born Oct. 14, 1928, in Auburn to George and Gladys (Berry) Hanes. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a brother and sister-in-law, Glenn and Naomi Hanes of Auburn; a sister, Nila J. Hanes of Auburn; and three nephews, Howard Hanes, David Hanes and Jack Hanes.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, John Frazee and Dr. Lawrence Hess.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, with Dr. Robert Craig officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

Phyllis Shaffer

WATERLOO — Phyllis J. Shaffer, 77, of Waterloo died Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at Wesley Healthcare Nursing Center in Auburn.

Mrs. Shaffer

She was employed by Martin-Marietta in Orlando, Fla., retiring in 1993. She enjoyed reading, playing Yahtzee, watching television game shows and solving word puzzles.

She was born June 3, 1930, in Fort Wayne to John C. and Jessie V. (Ross) Erhardt.

She married Thomas Shannon on July 26, 1952, in Fort Wayne. He died in 1979.

She then married Robert E. Shaffer on June 3, 1989, in Fort Wayne. He survives.

Also surviving are her children and their spouses, Michael J. Shannon of St. Cloud, Fla., Randy D. and Patricia Shannon of Houston, Texas, Vicki L. Shannon of St. Cloud, Fla., and Rebbecca and Steven Pettit of Goshen; three sisters, Donna J. Quaintance and Monna J. Karolyi, both of Fort Wayne, and Claudia J. Brueggemann of St. Cloud, Fla.; five grandchildren, Tabitha Myers, Jennifer and Scott Brower and Jeremy and Ashleigh Pettit; four great-grandchildren, Alexis and Joshua Myers and Adam and Noah Wiggins; seven stepchildren and their spouses, Dena Shaffer of Ossian; Ralph and Shelley Shaffer of Godley, Texas, and Deborah L. Andrews, Lucinda M. and Jeffrey Fenker, Richard and Traci Shaffer, Rebecca and Dennis Mahuren and Lorraine K. Barton, all of Fort Wayne.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens of Fort Wayne.

Charles Marshall

AUBURN — Charles L. Marshall, 76, of Auburn died Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Marshall was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict. He worked as a steamfitter and welder for Union Local 166, retiring in 1993 with 32 years of service.

Mr. Marshall

He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Auburn; American Legion Post 178 of Garrett; and Union Local 166. He loved to fish and spend summers at Hogback Lake.

He was born Feb. 27, 1932, in Kansas City, Mo., to Robert C. and Virginia (Myers) Marshall.

He married Nettie L. Thomas on Jan. 16, 1954, in Kirbyton, Ky. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Charles "Ron" and Ann Marshall of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Lisa and Scott Hess and Debra Baker, all of Auburn, and Cathy and Tom Goss of Goshen; two brothers, James Marshall of Wendell, Idaho and Bill Marshall of Las Vegas, Nev.; two sisters, Virginia A. Radford of Thayne, Wyo., and LaVancha Clark of Blackfoot, Idaho; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Calling will be Friday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials to American Cancer Society.

Jerry Pfeiffer

FORT WAYNE — Jerry Lee Pfeiffer, 61, died Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at his home in Fort Wayne.

Born in Garrett, he was employed with Alliance Industries, formerly Wee Haven Workshop, for 50 years.

Surviving are his mother, Dorothy Pfeiffer of Fort Wayne; a sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Dewey Tagtmeyer of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Dale and Debbie Pfeiffer of Garrett; a niece, Sarah Tagtmeyer; and four nephews, Peter Tagtmeyer and Scott, Jason and Chase Pfeiffer.

His father, John D. Pfeiffer, preceded him in death.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Jeff Horn officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Friday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Alliance Industries of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Mary Laverne Marshall; and a brother, Robert C. Marshall Jr.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Catholic Church in Kirbyton, Ky., with Father Masilamani Suvakkin officiating. Burial will be in St. Charles Catholic Cemetery of Kirbyton.

A rosary service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital or to Masses.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
March 14 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Longtime counselor Peggy Donovan dies

KENDALLVILLE — Longtime East Noble High School guidance counselor Peggy Marie Donovan, 55, of Kendallville died Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Dovovan had retired in July 2007 from the East Noble School Corp.

Mrs. Donovan

She graduated from Alexandria High School in 1970 and Purdue University with a master's in school counseling. She taught English at Rensselaer and West Lafayette.

She came to East Noble High School in 1979 and was named school counseling administrator in 1981.

In 1988, she was presented with the distinctive Secondary School Counselor Award by the Indiana Association for Counseling and Development.

Mrs. Donovan attended the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange.

She enjoyed spending ime with her friends and 'amily, dining out, reading iction and traveling.

Mrs. Donovan was born n Anderson on April 15, 952, to Clarence and Barbara Nell (Swift) Crouch. She married Richard Julian Donovan on July 12, 1980, in Alexandria. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are her mother, Barbara Crouch of Alexandria; a sister and brother-in-law, Brenda and Terry Vanlaningham of Mentone; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Dorene Crouch of Yorktown and Merrill and Marilyn Crouch of Oolitic; a niece and her husband, Hilary and Jay Dee Parker of Silver Lake; two nephews, Corey Vanlaningham of West Lafayette and Dr. Cameron Vanlaningham and his wife, Kelly, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; and two great-nephews, Carson Parker and Noah Vanlaningham.

She was preceded in death by her father in 1996.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, 201 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Ken Weaver officiating.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, 201 S. State St. in Kendallville, with the Rev. Ken Weaver officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville, and one hour prior to services Sunday at the church.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, 201 S. State St. in Kendallville, with the Rev. Ken Weaver officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

View a video tribute (after Saturday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Charles Gibson

KENDALLVILLE — Charles Hamilton Gibson, 10 days old, died Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Wednesday, March 2, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne to John and Danielle (Reeder) Gibson of Kendallville.

Surviving with his parents are his twin brother, Hunter Michael Gibson; his maternal grandparents, Steve and Barbara Reeder of Kendallville; his paternal grandmother, Flora Kay Gibson of Kendallville; and his maternal great-grandparents, Rollie Reeder of Kendallville and John and Bonnie Stanford of Fort Wayne.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Sedan Cemetery near Corunna with the Rev. Earl Bolen officiating.

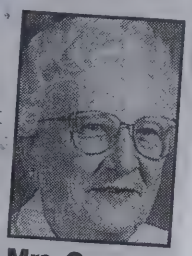
Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Betty Osmun

AUBURN — Betty M. Osmun, 89, of Auburn died Thursday, March 13, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett

Mrs. Osmun was a bookkeeper for Audio Visual Specialist in Fort Wayne for 10 years, retiring in 1979. She also was a bookkeeper for Midwest Dairy, City National Bank and Garns Candy Co. of Auburn before her retirement.


Mrs. Osmun

She was a member of First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Auburn and the Auburn Women's Club. She was an Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteer.

She was born Dec. 16, 1918, in Harlan to Clarence Franklin and Elma Mae (Volkert) Preston. They preceded her in death.

She married Lawrence B. Osmun on June 21, 1938, in Hicksville, Ohio. He died Oct. 5, 1988.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Marsha and James Ketner of Angola and Cathie and Dr. Jack Exley of Red Lodge, Mont.; four grandchildren and their spouses, Renee and Kevin Hull, Kristina Reas and Elizabeth Hazzard, Denise and Donald Mettert and Jamel and Jason Scheuring; seven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandsons; two sisters-in-law and a spouse, Helen and Chester Metz and Lucille Osmun, both of Hicksville, Ohio; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by one grandson, Jeffrey Reas, who died April 22, 2007; two brothers, Deloy Preston and Ned J. Preston; and two sisters, Muriel Preston and Margaret "Maxine" Dull.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Dr. Robert Craig officiating. Burial will be in Scipio Cemetery near Harlan.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Irene Jones

AUBURN — Irene M. (Leech) Jones, 77, of Auburn, died Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at her home.

Born in Morenci, Mich., she was a Realtor with Premier Realty in Auburn for several years. She graduated from high school in Morenci.

She married her husband of 47 years, Barney Jones, on Jan. 27, 1950, in Morenci. He died in August 1997.

Mrs. Jones

Surviving are a son, John Jones of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Dave Lochner of Auburn; two grandchildren, Aaron Lochner of Angola and Andy Lochner of Auburn; a sister, Madeline Van Riper of Fenton, Mich.; and three brothers, Walter Leech of Flint, Mich., William Leech of Grass Lake, Mich., and John Leech of Fenton.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Amy Koffron and Garnet Gutowski, two brothers, Robert and Raymond Leech, and a son, Jack Jones, in 2005.

A memorial service be at a later date.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

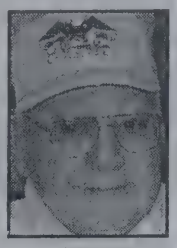
Memorials are to DeKalb County Hospice.

John Ells

GARRETT — John Wesley Ells, 74, of Garrett died Friday, March 14, 2008, at his residence.

He served on the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department for 32 years, retiring as captain.

Mr. Ells served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.


Mr. Ells

He was a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church, American Legion Post 178 in Garrett, and a lifetime member of the Waterloo V.F.W.

In Toledo, Ohio, he was born on Jan. 31, 1934, to George and Ruth (Adt) Ells. They preceded him in death. He married Kaye M. Shuff. She also preceded him in death.

Surviving are: a son, John Ells Jr., Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Julie and Stephen Thomas, Garrett, and Nancy Jane Ells, Auburn; two brothers, George Ells, Columbus, Ohio, and Hal Ells, Auburn; two sisters, Wealthea Martis, Acworth, Ga., and Nancy Marimount, Columbus, Ohio; seven grandchildren, Tiffany Archer, Arron Lautzenheiser, Brooke Fugate, and Jerid, Jessica, Wesley and Jesslyn Ells; and three great-grandchildren, Evan Fugate, Jayda Dirig and Logan Crawlsy.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Disabled American Veterans.

Lou Moore

AUBURN — Lou Moore, 79, of Auburn died Saturday, March 15, 2008, at her residence.

She was an LPN at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn for 28 years. She was a member of New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo.

On Nov. 24, 1928, in Walker County, Ala., she was born to Roy and Iris (Prestridge) Reeves. They preceded her in death. She married Harold Moore on May 30, 1975. He preceded her in death Oct. 25, 2000.

Surviving are: a son, Terry White, Greencastle; two daughters, Gail Nodine, Garrett, and Pam Dennison, Auburn; a sister, Lavene Densmore, Tuscalusa, Ala.; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, a daughter, Kathy Bailey, and a brother, Roy Reeves, preceded her in death.

Private graveside services will be Saturday at Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn, with Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Carolyn Lepper

HAMILTON — Carolyn "Sue" Lepper, 67, of Hamilton died Saturday, March 15, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

She was a registered nurse at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Redimed, and most recently for Indiana Mettert where she retired earlier this year.

Mrs. Lepper was a member of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Edon, Ohio, the Hamilton Garden Club, Butler Eagles, Loyal Order of the Moose in Auburn, Butler American Legion, and she was an avid China painter.

On Dec. 25, 1940, in Salem she was born to Martin and Marie Voyles. They preceded her in death. She married William C. Lepper on Jan. 10, 1998, in Hicksville, Ohio. He survives in Hamilton.

Also surviving are: a daughter and son-in-law, Sheri and Aaron Spirek, Fremont; a granddaughter, Kellie Roy, Angola; a step daughter and her spouse, Jody and Kurt Berry, St. Joe; a step son, Jeff Lepper, St. Joe; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Lisa Voyles, Salem, Ind.; and six grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, her first husband, Byron Colglazier, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Rev. Clayton J. Bailey officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home, and 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday before the services.

Memorials are to the St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Edon, Ohio.

Eugene Merriman

AUBURN — Eugene L. Merriman, 86, of Auburn died Sunday, March 16, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Merriman

Mr. Merriman was the owner of Custom Wood Products. He graduated from South Side High School in Fort Wayne in 1939 and was in the U.S. Navy from 1939 to 1947. He served during World War II and was a survivor of the attack on the battleship USS St. Louis at Pearl Harbor. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Mizpah Shrine, all in Fort Wayne, and Calvary United Methodist Church.

He was born May 18, 1921, in Huntington.

Surviving are his wife, E. Wanda (Brown) Merriman of Auburn; four daughters and a son-in-law, Patricia L. and Dennis Fleming of Auburn, Pamela Halterman of Garrett, Gay Lynn Martz of Ossian and Patty Ann Woodside of Wichita, Kan.; two brothers, Joe of Roanoke and Mark Merriman of Yoder; a sister, Janet Merriman of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur E. and Mildred (Eby) Merriman, and a brother, Max Merriman, who died in 1976.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Covington Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Classic Connection show choir of DeKalb High School.

Edna King

AUBURN — Edna A. King, 96, died Sunday, March 16, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. King

Born in Yakima, Wash., she was a homemaker. She was a member of Cedar Lake Church of Christ in Waterloo, Eastern Star and Ladies Aide. She enjoyed square dancing, traveling, cooking and being a seamstress, and she loved her family.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Rita and Duane Heller of Auburn and Marlene and Eldon Skelley of Hamilton; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Ralph and Helen Schannen of Florida and Gordon and Bea Schannen of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John King, in April 1996; a brother, Robert Schannen; and a sister, Ester Timma.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Brian Wilcox will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Center Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Youth For Christ, the DeKalb County Cancer Society and Marianne and Roy Badonger, missionaries from Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

Michael Fiig

BUTLER — Michael Kenneth Fiig, 36, of Butler died Monday, March 17, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Fiig

Mr. Fiig was an avid NASCAR fan and loved to restore old cars. He also enjoyed wrestling. He was a 1990 graduate of Eastside High School. He was born July 10, 1971, in Bryan, Ohio.

He married Candy L. Swary on Dec. 29, 2000, and she survives in Butler.

Also surviving are his father, Michael Fiig of Edgerton, Ohio; his mother and stepfather, Alisia (Hernandez) and Michael Kaiser of Butler; six children, Dereck Michael Fiig and Dominic David Fiig of Auburn, and Tyler Hauk Hanna, Corynth Emeric Hanna, Gabriella Marie Hanna and Brandon Michael Samuel Fiig, all of Butler; a brother, David Charles Fiig of Butler; a stepbrother, Nathan Kaiser of Butler; paternal grandparents, Kenny and Dorothy Fiig of Edgerton; a stepgrandmother, Loretta Kaiser of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a stepbrother, Shane Kaiser.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Souls Harbor Assembly of God, 3810 C.R. 40-A, Auburn, with Pastor David Snodderly officiating.

Calling will be Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
March 18 2008

D. Paul LaRowe Jr.

WATERLOO — D. Paul LaRowe Jr., 82, of Waterloo died Monday morning, March 17, 2008, at his home.

Mr. LaRowe was a lifetime farmer and was a bus driver for DeKalb Central schools for 35 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in World War II, and was awarded the Purple Heart.

He was a member of the Waterloo post of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Maple Grove United Methodist Church.

He was born July 11, 1925, in Albion to Delbert Paul LaRowe and Mildred (Zimmerman) LaRowe Scott. They preceded him in death.

He married Imogene "Jean" Knapp on Jan. 27, 1945, in Auburn. She died April 19, 2004.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Keith and Esther LaRowe of Kernersville, N.C., and Jeff and Cathy LaRowe of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Richard Smith of Corunna; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Renee Collins of Butler, Rita and Pat Schultz of West Lafayette, Pat and Danette LaRowe of Texas, Darcy LaRowe of Texas, Jennifer and Doug Bond of Austin, Texas, Troy and Leann Blanchard of Auburn and Charrise and John Lothamer of New Haven; 16 great-grandchildren; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Bill LaRowe of Pigeon Forge, Tenn., Dean and Roberta LaRowe of Harrison, Mich., Ronald and Tam LaRowe of Okeechobee, Fla., and Allan and Ann LaRowe of Auburn; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Charlotte and Jim Whittington of Auburn and Evelyn and Harold Russell of Mancelona, Mich.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Robert LaRowe.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Diane Barrett officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association or Maple Grove Methodist Church.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to include additional information.*

Eugene Merriman

AUBURN — Eugene L. Merriman, 86, of Auburn died Sunday, March 16, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Merriman

Mr. Merriman was the owner of Custom Wood Products. He graduated from South Side High School in Fort Wayne in 1939. He was retired from the U.S. Navy after serving from 1939 to 1959. He served aboard the light cruiser USS St. Louis and was a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge as a 32nd degree Mason, Scottish Rite and Mizpah Shrine, all in Fort Wayne, and Calvary United Methodist Church.

He was born May 18, 1921, in Huntington.

Surviving are his wife, E. Wanda (Brown) Merriman of Auburn; four daughters, Patricia Fleming of Auburn, Pamela Halterman of Garrett, Gay Lynn Martz of Ossian and Patty Ann Woodside of Wichita, Kan.; two brothers, Joe Merriman of Roanoke and Mark Merriman of Yoder; a sister, Janet Merriman of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur E. and Mildred (Eby) Merriman, and a brother, Max Merriman.

Services will be today at 1 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Covington Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Classic Connection show choir of DeKalb High School.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with revised information about a surviving relative.*

Michael Fiig

BUTLER — Michael Kenneth Fiig, 36, of Butler died Monday, March 17, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Fiig

Mr. Fiig was an avid NASCAR fan and loved to restore old cars. He also enjoyed wrestling. He was a 1990 graduate of Eastside High School. He was born July 10, 1971, in Bryan, Ohio.

He married Candy L. Swary on Dec. 29, 2000, and she survives in Butler.

Also surviving are his father, Kenneth Michael Fiig of Edgerton, Ohio; his mother and stepfather, Alisia (Hernandez) and Michael Kaiser of Butler; six children, Dereck Michael Fiig and Dominic David Fiig of Auburn, and Tyler Hauk Hanna, Corynth Emeric Hanna, Gabriella Marie Hanna and Brandon Michael Samuel Fiig, all of Butler; a brother, David Charles Fiig of Butler; a stepbrother, Nathan Kaiser of Butler; paternal grandparents, Kenny and Dorothy Fiig of Edgerton; a stepgrandmother, Loretta Kaiser of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a stepbrother, Shane Kaiser.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Souls Harbor Assembly of God, 3810 C.R. 40-A, Auburn, with Pastor David Snodderly officiating.

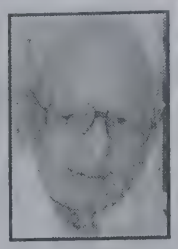
Calling will be Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

George Capen

AUBURN — George A. Capen, 98, died Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.


Mr. Capen

Mr. Capen worked as an engineer for Magnavox Corp. in Fort Wayne for 31 years, retiring in 1975. While he was at Magnavox, his engineering team developed the first television set.

He was a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, where he volunteered.

During World War II, he was in the U.S. Signal Corps, serving in Panama.

His hobby was collecting and restoring old radios. He also loved genealogy, tracing the Capen family back to 1592.

He was born Feb. 3, 1910, in Auburn to Robert Claude and Anna Maude (Baird) Capen.

He married Dorothy L. Tomer on Nov. 12, 1942, in Auburn. She died Jan. 14, 2003.

Surviving are three nieces and their husbands, Judith Lantz of Auburn, Jean and Charles Vose of Auburn and Jill and Steve Oswalt of Florida; and two nephews, Robert Capen of Pennsylvania and John Capen of California.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Charles, Stanley, James and Franklin Capen; a nephew, James Capen; a niece, Nancy Capen; and a nephew-in-law, Larry Lantz.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. O. Dale Williams will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum.

Donna Myers

AUBURN — Donna Jean Myers, 80, of Auburn died at 4 a.m. Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at her home.

She had lived in Noble County most of her life and was a 1945 graduate of Avilla High School. She and her husband, Lee, moved to Auburn in 1999.

Mrs. Myers was a homemaker.

She enjoyed traveling, quilting and spending time with her family.

She was born Dec. 4, 1927, in Green Township, Noble County, to Lloyd and Hazel (Snell) Schaefer. She married Lee A. Myers at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Swan Township on March 20, 1948. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Marilyn Myers of Avilla; a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Thomas Wick of Pittsburgh, Pa.; three grandchildren and their spouses, Joe and Alexis Myers, Jennifer and David Lemen and Roger and Kelly Walburn; and a brother, Gale Schaefer of Churubusco.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, with the Rev. Larry Williams officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery near Kendallville.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Send online condolences to brazzellfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
March 20 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Rosina Drew

AUBURN — Rosina Drew, 79, of Auburn died Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital of Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Drew

Mrs. Drew was a homemaker, a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and a past member of the Legion of Mary. She was a Red Cross volunteer and a member of the Christmas Bureau and UAW retirees' group.

She was born Aug. 14, 1928, in Newark, N.J., to Angelo and Josephine (Scarpa) D'Alessio. They preceded her in death.

She married Kenneth Ivan Drew Sr. on Nov. 23, 1946, in Newark, N.J. He died April 25, 2002.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Kenneth Ivan Drew Jr. and Anita Drew, and Michael A. and Darla Drew, all of Auburn; two daughters, Cynthia Ann Hoffelder of Lakeland, Fla., and Ramona Fay Drew of Auburn; 10 grandchildren and their spouses, Angela and Dean Reeve, Richard and Beth Drew, Jennifer and Travis Bowman, Carl Drew, James and Cathy Drew, Carolyn Drew and Andrew Gaier, Kevin and Sarah Drew, Adam Drew, Thomas Hoffelder, and Katrina and Daniel Stearsman; 23 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Stella Moran of New Jersey and Josephine DiCandia of North Carolina; and one brother and sister-in-law, Antonio and Margret D'Alessio of New Jersey.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Spinola and Anna LePore, and four brothers, Samuel D'Alessio, Phillip D'Alessio, Anthony Velardi and Angelo F. D'Alessio Sr.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate. Burial will be in Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

The rosary will be recited Monday at 4 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery Fund.

Sarah Lung

GARRETT — Sarah I. "Izzy" Lung, 81, of Garrett died Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Lung worked at Wyatt's Hardware and then at Essex Wire until her retirement in 1972. She was a member of the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary and Garrett Eagles Auxiliary.

She was born May 26, 1926, in North Judson to Harry W. and Octava (Geyer) Kelley.

She married Lawrence H. "Pete" Lung on May 18, 1946. He died Nov. 22, 2004.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Richard Muzzillo of Angola; three sons and daughters-in-law, Harry and Angela Lung and Larry and Jody Lung, all of Garrett, and Paul and Anita Degrasse of Clinton, N.C.; a brother, Harry Kelley of Angola; two sisters, Audrey Beaty of Angola and Linda Mann of Pleasant Lake; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, William and Harold Kelley; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be Saturday, April 12, at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Pastor Jim Lilley will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday, April 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

To sign an online guestbook or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Dorothy Fiig

EDGERTON, Ohio — Dorothy S. Fiig, 80, of Edgerton, Ohio, died Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at 4:50 a.m. in the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler, where she was a resident.

Mrs. Fiig was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton and the rosary altar society. She was employed by the Ohio Art Co. in Bryan, Ohio, working on the Etch-a-Sketch line and retiring with 40 years of service.

She was born Sept. 22, 1927, in Blakeslee, Ohio, to George and Rosella (Siebenaler) Thiel.

She married Kenneth C. Fiig on June 7, 1947, in Blakeslee, Ohio. He survives.

Also surviving are a son, Kenneth M. Fiig Jr., of Edgerton, Ohio; one grandchild and his wife, David and Carrie Fiig, of Butler; one stepgrandson and his wife, Nathan and Summer Kaiser of Butler; 12 great-grandchildren; one granddaughter-in-law, Candy Fiig, of Butler; and her longtime caregiver, Alisia Fiig-Kaiser of Butler.

She was preceded in death by two grandsons, Michael Fiig, on March 17, 2008, and Shane Kaiser on July 3, 1986; two brothers, Michael and Cleo Thiel; and two sisters, Leona Clark and Lucille Blosser.

Graveside services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Edgerton, Ohio, with Father Stephen Schroeder officiating.

Calling will be private.

Memorials are to the St. Mary Catholic Church elevator fund in Edgerton, Ohio.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

THE EVENING STAR
March 23 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Gropp made fish tasty and famous

BY WANDA YODER
lagrange@kpcnews.net

HUDSON — Years ago, Mildred "Millie" Gropp confessed that she really didn't like the taste of fish.

That changed after Millie experimented with a variety of combinations of ingredients to create her secret breading mix for fish. It wasn't long until her "secret" drew thousands of area residents who liked the taste of her fish to Stroh Tavern in Stroh.

Millie, 79, died unexpectedly Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, at her home. She and her late husband were the founders of Gropp's Famous Fish of Stroh restaurant.

When Millie's fish, tartar sauce and cole slaw caught on, people from the area and even out of state often waited as long as two hours to get into the Stroh restaurant and tavern.

Gropp's Famous Fish of Stroh originated in 1956 when Millie and her husband, Elvin, decided to sell their family farm in Walkerton because of an allergy to animals that Millie had developed. The couple opened a tavern in Stroh. To bring new customers to the tavern, the couple decided to add food to the menu. In the late 1950s, they would sell all-you-can-eat fish specials for 50 cents. Millie's home-style recipes became favorites of Fish of Stroh fans. As many as 1,500 people came through the doors of the restaurant on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the summer months.

Millie's daughter, Ruth Singleton, of Wolcottville remembers her mother as more of a gourmet cook at home.

"She would adapt and change recipes to suit her," Ruth said. "She was more of a gourmet cook at home. But my favorite was Mom's great fudge. I remember as a child saying, 'Oh mom, you make the best fudge in the whole wide world.'"

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A smiling, contented looking Millie Gropp sits at the family table during a family gathering to celebrate her birthday in December 2006.

Millie's daring personality may have the source behind her special recipes. "She was never afraid of trying anything new," Ruth noted. "She would travel a lot and went on Australian cruises and trips to Europe. She even had the nerve to drive in Europe when she went. She would water ski and swim and taught us kids. Mom also knitted and crocheted. She had lots of friends and was very active in her church. She was always ready to help others and sponsored a number of fish fries for the Indiana State Police post in Ligonier," Ruth said.

It was not Millie's famous fish that her son Mark Gropp, also of Wolcottville, remembers either.

"I would call and ask her to bring home a cheeseburger and fried mushrooms," Mark said, but added that she would always cook with a "pinch of this and a pinch of that."

Mark also remembered his mother as an adventurous sole. "In the early years, my parents would take turns taking vacations. We were actually shipwrecked in the Caribbean during a storm. The boat was a 207-foot-long French sailing ship. We were rescued in two-story waves," he said.

Daughter Catherine remembers distinctly a trip to a cooking school she attended in France with her mother and Ruth. "Mom was a hardworking woman and enjoyed people. We traveled to France one year to learn French cuisine. There was also a trip to a health spa in Florida. They served fresh fruit and fresh vegetables. We brought a lot of knowledge back from the health spa and began offering vegetables and fruit in our restaurants, but the vegetables and fruit bowl at our Elkhart and Rochester restaurants were more elaborate."

Mark remembers the early years of the restaurant. "The first fish were Lake Erie perch. The fish were delivered whole and we would clean our own fish at the tavern. Later we used cod fish," he said.

In the 1970s and '80s, Gropp's Famous Fish of Stroh grew by franchising locations throughout Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. As the years passed and the various franchises expired, the Gropp family chose to exit the franchising business. The last Famous Fish of Stroh restaurant in Fort Wayne closed in October 2003.

Millie's famous fish can still be found however.

In December 2004, a Fort Wayne-based company, FRANDS Group LLC, purchased all rights and recipes related to Gropp's Famous Fish of Stroh. Their first new location at Pine Valley Shopping Center in Fort Wayne opened in March 2005 and features the original recipes and a Stroh Lake Bait and Tackle dining room. A second location recently opened in the Georgetown Square shopping center on East State Boulevard in Fort Wayne.

Jerry Lee Bortner

STANARDSVILLE, Va. — Jerry Lee Bortner, 60, of Stanardsville, Va., died Friday, March 21, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Bortner was the human resource manager at Badger Fire Protection. He served 14 years as the mayor of Stanardsville and was still in office. He also had served on the Greene County Planning Commission and was a member of the Stanardsville Area Revitalization.

He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was a member of the American Legion and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. He also was a licensed amateur radio operator.

He was born on March 11, 1948, in Kendallville to Virginia Getts Bortner and the late Max Joseph Bortner.

Survivors include by his wife of 20 years, Debra Reid Bortner; his mother, Virginia Getts Bortner of Albion; two sons, Patrick Bortner of Albion and David Bortner of Ruckersville, Va.; a daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Jay Marker of Albion; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Jack and Eileen Bortner and John and Norma Bortner, all of Auburn; two aunts, Helen Bortner of Auburn and Hilda Schneider of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Emma Marker, Adam Marker, Destini Bortner and Diamond Bortner; and many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

Mr. Bortner

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a brother, James Bortner.

Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Ryan Funeral Home, 12819 Spotwood Trail, Ruckersville, Va., with the Rev. Norma Dean officiating. Burial is in Westover United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Calling is Monday from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Westover United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 200, Ruckersville, Va., 22968 or the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street S.E., Vienna, Va., 22180.

Thelma Zinn

CHECOTAH, Okla. — Thelma J. Zinn, 71, of Checotah, Okla., died Thursday, March 21, 2008, at Muskogee Regional Medical Center, Muskogee, Okla.

She served her career in the U.S. Army.

She was born Dec. 7, 1936, in Garrett to George Glen and Wava Sue (Schultz) Zinn, who are both deceased.

Survivors include two sisters, Beverly J. Riccius of Checotah, Okla., and Irene Fay Miller of Butler; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She also was preceded in death by a brother, Cleo E. Zinn and two sisters, Ruth Donley and Gladys May King.

Services are pending at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn.

Vera Yarlot

AUBURN — Vera "Pauline" Yarlot, 91, died Friday, March 21, 2008, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She worked as a machine operator for Rieke Corp. in Auburn for 23 years, retiring in 1979. She attended St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn and was a member of the Pythias Sisters of Auburn and Women of the Moose.

She was born Dec. 20, 1916, in Garrett to John and Opha (Carnahan) Mason, who are both deceased. She married Wayne A. Yarlot on Feb. 17, 1940, in Newville. He preceded her in death on July 27, 2000.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Larry and Judy Yarlot of Garrett and Don and Sande Yarlot of Auburn; two daughters, Sharon Reynolds of Auburn and Marsha Custer of Garrett; a brother-in-law, Floyd "Bud" Carper of Waterloo; two sisters-in-law, Roberta Mason of Addison, Mich. and Ruth Yarlot of Waterloo; nine grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

He also was preceded in death by four brothers, Lloyd, Floyd, Carl and Max Mason, and a sister, Betty Shilling.

Services are Monday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Stuart Kruse officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Heimach Senior Center.

William Lepper

HAMILTON — William C. Lepper, 71, of Hamilton died Monday morning, March 24, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Lepper was a truck driver for more than 40 years. He retired from Associated Truck Lines in 2001. He served in the Air National Guard for 10 years and was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Edon, Ohio. He belonged to Butler American Legion Post 282, the Butler Fraternal Order of Eagles and the DeKalb County Fair Association.

He was born Sept. 29, 1936, in Fort Wayne to Edwin and Edna (Koeneman).

He married Carolyn Sue Colglazier on Jan. 10, 1998, in Hicksville, Ohio. She died March 15, 2008.

Surviving are a son, Jeff Lepper of St. Joe; a daughter and son-in-law, Jody and Kurt Berry of St. Joe; a stepdaughter and her husband, Sheri and Aaron Spirek of Fremont; seven grandchildren, Joshua Berry, Kirstin Berry, Kailen Berry, Jeremy Lepper, Janna Lepper, Jacob Lepper and Kellie Roy; and a brother, Robert H. Lepper of Churubusco.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Clayton Bailey officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Edon.

Jeramy Hatton

GARRETT — Jeramy B. Hatton, 32, of Garrett died Sunday, March 23, 2008, at home.

Born in Auburn, Mr. Hatton was a driver with Taylor Rental in Auburn. Previously he had been a woodworker for Cox Cabinets for five years. He was a member of Calvary Chapel Worship Center.

Surviving are two children, Gage and Daytona Hatton, and a stepdaughter, Carmen Hurd, all of Garrett; his mother and stepfather, Kim and David Cox of Fremont; a paternal grandmother, Nora Hatton of LaOtto; a maternal grandmother, Alverta Sprague of Auburn; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jared Hatton, in 2001; his father, Donald Hatton; a paternal grandfather, Ben Hatton; and a maternal grandfather, Orval Sprague.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. and Thursday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Wilbur Robbins

AUBURN — Wilbur "Willie" Hugh Robbins, 90, of Auburn died Saturday, March 22, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Robbins worked in the heating and cooling business with Doc Dancer for 16 years. He was a member of the Garrett Eagles, Moose and Elks organizations.

Mr. Robbins

He was born Nov. 29, 1917, in Auburn.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Viola May (Sproat) of Garrett; three sons and daughters-in-law, Carol B. and Wyona Robbins of Garrett, Phillip and Jill Robbins of Mesa, Ariz., and Duane and Geneva Robbins of Garrett; two daughters and a son-in-law, Joyce and Dewey Smeed of Pennsylvania and Charlotte Doner of Auburn; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Robbins, a brother, Floyd Clifford Robbins, and two sisters, Vera Mae Rodenbaugh and Marjorie Johnson.

There will be no services or calling.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

Charles Gibson

KENDALLVILLE — Charles Hamilton Gibson, 10 days old, died Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Sunday, March 2, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne to John and Danielle (Reeder) Gibson of Kendallville.

Surviving with his parents are his twin brother, Hunter Michael Gibson; his maternal grandparents, Steve and Barbara Reeder of Kendallville; his paternal grandmother, Flora Kay Gibson of Kendallville; and his maternal great-grandparents, Rollie Reeder of Kendallville and John and Bonnie Stanford of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Larry Gibson; and his maternal great-grandmother, Emma Reeder.

Graveside services were Saturday, March 15, at Sedan Cemetery near Corunna with the Rev. Earl Bolen officiating.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville was in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Marjorie Prickett

ALBION — Marjorie L. Prickett, 93, of Albion died at 4:15 a.m. Monday, March 24, 2008, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mrs. Prickett was a registered nurse. She had worked for Dr. Roth in Wolf Lake for 22 years and for Dr. Bowman in Albion for 28 years.

She was born Dec. 20, 1914, in Boise, Idaho, to Albinus and Gertrude (Bruno) Kimmell. She married John Prickett on Aug. 31, 1940, in Albion. He died Dec. 9, 1998.

Surviving is a son, James Prickett of Auburn.

She was also preceded in death by a sister and two brothers.

Private family services will be held with burial in Rose Hill Cemetery in Albion.

Memorials are to Shepherd of the Hill Employee's Christmas Fund, P.O. Box 429, Kendallville, IN 46755.

Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Thelma Zinn

CHECOTAH, Okla. — Thelma J. Zinn, 71, of Checotah, Okla., died Thursday, March 20, 2008, at Muskogee Regional Medical Center in Muskogee, Okla.

She served her career in the U.S. Army.

She was born Dec. 7, 1936, in Garrett to George Glen and Wava Sue (Schultz) Zinn.

Surviving are two sisters, Beverly J. Riccius of Checotah, Okla., and Eileen Fay Miller of Butler; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Cleo E. Zinn, and four sisters, Ruth Donley, Gladys May King, Hilda Zinn and Inez Zinn.

Graveside services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Fairview Cemetery at Huntertown.

Calling will be tonight from 7-9 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to provide additional information.*

Carol Gage

KINGSTON SPRINGS, Tenn. — Carol Lou Cavanaugh Gage, 58, died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008, in Kingston Springs, Tenn.

She was born May 5, 1949, in Fort Wayne to Jack and Betty Lou Lefevre Cavanaugh, who proceded her in death.

Surviving are a daughter, Kelly Lou Hayes of Kingston Springs, Tenn.; a brother, Jack Cavanaugh of Angola; and one granddaughter, Elizabeth Lou Hayes of Kingston Springs, Tenn.

A memorial service will be held at Bridgewater Golf Course in Auburn on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Memorials are to Alive Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

Taylor Funeral Home of Dickson, Tenn., is handling arrangements.

Roger LaFevor

SOUTH WHITLEY — Roger L. LaFevor, 63, a resident of rural South Whitley, died Saturday, March 22, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at his residence.

Mr. LaFevor

Mr. Lafevor worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne, retiring in 1997 after over 30 years of employment.

He graduated from Huntertown High School in 1963 and entered the U.S. Army later that year, serving with Company B 1st Battalion 506th Infantry. He specialized in light weapons infantry, attended Airborn School and was awarded the Parachutist Badge, Expert Badge (rifle M-14) and the National Defense Service Medal.

He was born in Fort Wayne on March 27, 1945, to Louis H. and Laura L. (Fritz) LaFevor, who are both deceased. He married Patricia L. Gebhart on Sept. 14, 1968. She survives.

Other survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Marnie LaFevor of Mitchell; a daughter and son-in-law, Christina and Albert Donato of Fortville; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Wendell LaFevor of Warsaw and Kenneth and Sharon LaFevor of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Wauneta and Bill Perse of Fort Wayne; and four grandchildren.

There will be a tribute to life gathering at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home, Churubusco, on Friday from 10 a.m. until noon. Military rites will be conducted at noon by the U.S. Honors Unit and the Churubusco American Legion Post 157.

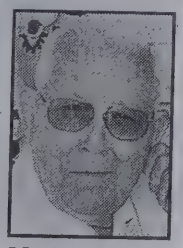
Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with new information and revisions provided by the funeral home.*

Wilbur Robbins

AUBURN — Wilbur "Willie" Hugh Robbins, 90, of Auburn died Saturday, March 22, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.


Mr. Robbins

Mr. Robbins worked in the heating and cooling business with Doc Dancer for 16 years. He was a member of the Garrett Eagles, Moose and Elks organizations.

He was born Nov. 29, 1917, in Auburn.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Viola May (Sproat) of Garrett; three sons and daughters-in-law, Carol B. and Wyona Robbins of Garrett, Phillip and Jill Robbins of Mesa, Ariz., and DeWayne and JoAnn Robbins of Garrett; two daughters, Joyce Smeed of Pennsylvania and Charlotte Dohner of Auburn; three stepdaughters, Carol Fraze and her husband, Dough, of South Carolina; Dawn Ewert and her husband, David, of Auburn, and Linda Britton of Florida; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; six brothers and four sisters.

He was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Robbins, a brother, Floyd Clifford Robbins, and two sisters, Vera Mae Rodenbaugh and Marjorie Johnson.

There will be no services or calling.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

Betty Stabe

KENDALLVILLE — Betty Evelyn Stabe, 87, of Kendallville died Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Stabe

Mrs. Stabe owned and operated Betty's Salon of Beauty in Kendallville for many years and was an Avon representative.

She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church near Corunna where she enjoyed her favorite music and old hymns. She was also a member the Kendallville Business and Professional Women. She and her husband, Harold, had been members of the Rollin' Oldies Car Club.

She was born April 23, 1920, in Kendallville to Donald and Leora Sollenberger. She was first married to Paul Stackhouse, who preceded her death. She then married Harold F. Stabe in October 1972 and he died Oct. 4, 2007.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra and Jim Hagerty of Kendallville and Sharry and Dave Wiehe of Columbia City; eight grandchildren and their spouses, Diana and David Ladig of New Haven, Kevin and Vickie Bortner of Ligonier, Ron and Sandra Bortner of Huntington, Terry and Elizabeth Bortner of Ligonier, Lana Snyder of Auburn, Lisa McDaniel of Auburn, Jennifer Roark of Fort Wayne and Sara and Shawn Schuller of Columbia City; 18 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; several nephews including Philip Nicholson and his wife, Kathy, of Maryland; a niece and her husband, Carolyn and Pete Smith of South Carolina; and a great-niece and her husband, Beth Ann and Max Melchi of Fort Wayne.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and three sisters, Rosie, June and Helen.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with the Rev. Al Wingfield officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Saturday.

Memorials are to Zion Lutheran Church.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Eugene Hahn

AUBURN — Eugene Earl Hahn, 61, of Auburn died Tuesday, March 25, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hahn worked at Bushak-Shambam of New Haven. He was a member of Auburn Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon. He was a former member of the Auburn Jaycees and a former Cubmaster. He graduated from Hamilton High School in 1965.

He was born Aug. 2, 1946, in West Lafayette to Harold "Earl" and Mildred (Cummings) Hahn.

He married Sharon (Peck) Johnson on April 18, 1998, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Timothy and Marsha Hahn of Garrett and Ronald and Shellie Hahn of Noblesville; two stepdaughters and a stepson-in-law, Sarah Johnson of Wheeling, Ill. and Carrie and Karl Sorensen of Indianapolis; five grandchildren, Keith Hahn, Kourtney Hahn and Kady Hahn, all of Garrett, and Jamie Hahn and Lexie Hahn, both of Noblesville; and a stepgrandson, Johann Sorensen of Indianapolis.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Jerry Hahn; and a sister, Janice Banes.

Services will be Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Nancy D. Becker officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home, and one hour before the service on Sunday.

Memorials are to the Diabetic Association.

Janet Brown

AUBURN — Janet K. Brown, 65, of Auburn died Thursday, March 27, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Brown worked at Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. in Auburn.

She was born May 17, 1942, in Auburn to Harry and Maurine (Grove) Dean.

She married Danny Brown on May 17, 2002, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Ricky and Teresa Huth of Auburn and Dean Huth Jr. of Auburn; a daughter, Melanie Huth of Auburn; three grandchidren and a spouse, Brandon and Jenny Huth of Waterloo, Crystal Huth of Auburn and Nicholas Huth of Auburn; a great-granddaughter, Emma Huth; a brother and sister-in-law, Donner and Nancy Dean of Kansas City; and a sister, Jean Klug of Columbia City.

She was preceded in death by a son, Timmy Huth.

A graveside service will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Aurelia Boggs

WATERLOO — Aurelia J. Boggs, 80, of Waterloo died Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

She worked throughout her life as a secretary.

She was born June 24, 1927, in Chicago to Virgil P. and Elma A. (Ehrnardt) Johnson.

Surviving are three daughters and their spouses, Catherine A. and Oscar Johnson of Indianapolis, Carole J. Boggs and Merlin Baird of Ashley and Caye L. and Scott Lutz of Monticello; five grandchildren, Robert J. Hardy of Auburn, Richard and Renee Hardy of Kendallville, Crissi Griggs of Waterloo, Amber Graham of Indianapolis and Angela Henderson of Auburn; and six great-grandchildren, Lucas, Noah, Alison, Bryttany, Chelsea and William.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Charles A. Boggs and Chris J. Boggs, and a brother, Phillip Johnson.

There will be no services.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter or the Grant Township Public Library.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

Joseph McClain

SUN CITY, Ariz. — Joseph Warner McClain, 90, of Sun City, Ariz., died Sunday, March 23, 2008.

Mr. McClain graduated from Purdue University in 1939 with a degree in electrical engineering. He retired after 35 years with R.B.M.-United Technology as an electrical designer at Logansport and as a plant manager in Auburn and Juarez, Mexico. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Elks Club and 9th Street Christian Church.

In 1948, he and a friend built and managed the Logansport Skyline Theatre. He spent his retirement years traveling and enjoying 27 summers with his family at their summer home in Hamilton.

He was born Nov. 7, 1917, in Indianapolis to Charles and Mary McClain.

He married Sarah Edith Stanley on March 11, 1941. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Richard and Barrie McClain of Logansport, Robert and Kathy McClain of Auburn, Jerry and Mary Ann McClain of Sebring, Fla., and Charles McClain of El Paso, Texas; a daughter, Sheryl Murphy of Norcross, Ga.; nine grandchildren, Jeffery, Nathan, Brian, Matthew, David, Erica, Christopher, Raymond and Mark; six great-grandchildren, Brandt, Lauran, Clark, Katie, Saylor Ann and Moshe; and a sister, Charlene Shumaker of Plainfield.

Sunland Mortuary of Sun City, Ariz., is handling arrangements for services at a later date in Logansport.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

THE EVENING STAR
March 28 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Ova Sumner

GARRETT — Ova Wayne Sumner, 57, of Lexington, Ky., and formerly of Garrett, died March 12, 2008.

He was born March 21, 1950, to Eli Sumner Sr. and Hazel Marie Sumner.

Surviving are two sons, Mirth Wayne Sumner of Waterloo and Joseph Allen Sumner of Avilla; four brothers, Norman Bud Sumner of Vicco, Ky., Esom Glenn Sumner of Spencerville, Coby Dean Sumner of Rome City and Daniel James Sumner of Rome City; three sisters, Frances Ann Collins of Albion, Persie Sumner of Garrett and Mary Pence of Garrett; and four grandchildren, Steven Wayne Sumner, Alexander Joseph Sumner, Jessica Diane Sumner and Tabitha Ann Sumner.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Ora Lee Cody, and two brothers, Eli Sumner Jr. and John David Sumner.

Calling will be Saturday, April 5, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. with Pastor Lane Andrews officiating. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family to assist with funeral expenses.

To sign an online guest book or to send a condolence, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Sarah Bowerman

ANGOLA — Sarah Elizabeth Bowerman, 88, of Angola died Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

Mrs. Bowerman was a homemaker.

She was a member of Flint United Methodist Church. She enjoyed word search books, petunias and other flowers, and birds.

She was born Aug. 24, 1919, in Auburn to Charles and Isdore (Collins) Pairan, both of whom preceded her in death. She married Charles Bowerman in 1968. He died Sept. 26, 1987.

She is survived by two brothers, Archie Pairan of Orland and Lyle Pairan of Oregon; two sisters, Vera Teller of Flint and Violet Penrod of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

There are no services or calling.

Memorials are to the family, in care of Tod Penrod.

Arrangements are by Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Viola Robbins

AUBURN — Viola May Robbins, 84, of Auburn died Thursday, March 27, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Robbins

Mrs. Robbins was born May 24, 1923, in Fort Wayne. She graduated from Fort Wayne Central High School in 1941. She worked as a grinder at General Electric and worked at Gamemasters for 13 years, retiring in 1979. She was a member of the Moose and Eagles in Garrett.

Surviving are a three daughters and two sons-in-law, Carol and Doug Fraze of South Carolina, Dawn and David Ewert of Auburn and Linda Britton of Florida; three stepsons and their wives, Carl R. and Wyona Robbins of Garrett, Phillip and Jill Robbins of Mesa, Ariz., and DeWayne and JoAnn Robbins of Garrett; and two stepdaughters, Joyce Sneed of Pennsylvania and Charlotte Dohner of Auburn; a sister, Ruth Woods of Indianapolis; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Wilbur H. Robbins, on March 22, 2008; her first husband, James Fleet, to whom she was married from 1942 to 1947; a son, Kenneth Robbins; a brother, Charles E. Sproat; and her parents Morton G. Sproat and Lola May Waikel.

There will be no services or calling.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

John Grimm

WATERLOO — John N. Grimm, 67, of Waterloo, died Friday, March 28, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Grimm was president of DeKalb Distributing of Avilla for 44 years

Mr. Grimm

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Lakewood Park Baptist Church, the Auburn Moose Lodge, Auburn Elks Lodge and American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Club.

He was a hunter and fisherman and went on five African hunting expeditions and several hunting and fishing trips in Canada.

He was born Aug. 24, 1940, in Auburn to Herbert Nicholas and Mary Elizabeth "Betty" (Warner) Grimm.

He married Karen R. Karnes on July 2, 1960, in the Cedar Lake Church of Christ. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law; Joel and Jerilyn Grimm of Auburn and Peter and Sherry Grimm of Waterloo, a daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Ron Jones of Waterloo, eight grandchildren, Jacob, Katelyn, Shyanna, Madalynn and Emma Grimm and Erika, Paige and Jadyn Jones; a sister; Joann Foster of Florida; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Judy Grimm of Florida; his in-laws, Duaine and Devella Karnes of Auburn; and his brothers- and sisters-in-law, Don and Judy Frank, David and Cheryl Peck, Duaine and Karen Karnes, Doug and Rita Karnes, Jerry and Chris Wilhelm. and Randy and Freida Michael.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Lakewood Park Baptist Church in Auburn. The Rev. Clare Jewel and the Rev. Russ Howard will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to Schoombee School Foundation, Middelburg Eastern Cape, South Africa, in care of Campbell and Fetter Bank in Auburn.

George Haller

WATERLOO — George H. Haller, 76, of Waterloo, died Saturday morning, March 29, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Haller worked as a foreman for Eagle-Picher in Huntington for 10 years and for the Red Cross for nine years before retiring in December 2005.

He was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

Mr. Haller earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University, an E.E.T. degree from Purdue University and a master's degree from the University of St. Francis.

He was born Oct. 12, 1931, in Fort Wayne to Harry William and Louise (Spake) Haller.

He married Margaret A. Lafferty on March 17, 1956, in Fort Wayne. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, William George "Bill" and Judith Haller of Waterloo; and a brother, Robert William Haller of Fort Wayne.

There will be no services or calling. Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the Waterloo United Methodist Church or the American Red Cross.

THE EVENING STAR
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Max Green

FORT WAYNE — Max E. Green, 87, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Butler died Sunday, March 23, 2008, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fort Wayne.

A retired DeKalb County farmer, Mr. Green was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He was born Aug. 23, 1920, in Yoder to Thurl and Pearl (Jack) Green.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Marcia and Alan Fudge of Fort Wayne; five sons and four daughters-in-law, David and Donna Green of Fort Wayne, Bruce and Linda Green of Houston, Texas, Ronald and Su Ann Green of Miami, Fla., Roger Green of Butler and John and Kathy Green of Fort Wayne; a sister, Agnes Rugman of Garrett; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Joel Green.

A private burial service was in Oaklawn Cemetery of Ossian.

Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home of Fort Wayne handled arrangements.

Memorials are to the Hoosier Air Museum of Auburn or Make-a-Wish Foundation.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
March 30 2008

Counselor affected thousands

Peggy Donovan was instrumental to success of East Noble High School

BY DENNIS HARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — "She was a sounding board, crying shoulder, tough-love giver and friend to all."

That's how East Noble High School director of guidance Lindy Munson remembers her mentor, Peggy Donovan, 55, who died Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne after retiring about nine months ago as the high school's director of guidance.

Donovan spent 28 years in guidance at East Noble High School, introducing innovative programs and touching the lives of thousands of students, their parents and East Noble staff.

"For 28 years, Peggy established countless relationships with students, parents, community members and colleagues," said Munson. "These relationships have been instrumental in the success of East Noble High School."

East Noble principal Ann Linson called Donovan a wonderful person, wife, friend and counselor. "She had a way of comforting you and making you feel very secure," said Linson.

East Noble School Corp. superintendent Dr. H. Steve Sprunger remembers Donovan's warm, engaging personality.

"She was always part of the solution, not the problem, and regardless of the situation never failed to see the good in people," he said.

Donovan's friend, Anita Hess, worked with her on student scholarships.

"Peggy was a great listener for students and faculty," said Hess. "She was a wonderful person, always helpful and concerned about another person's welfare."

Donovan taught English for four years at Rensselaer and West Lafayette after graduating from Purdue University, then returned to Purdue to obtain her master's degree. She learned about East Noble's need for a guidance counselor while at Purdue.

She came to East Noble in 1979.

In a May 20, 2007, News-Sun story about her retirement, Donovan was asked what she liked most about her job.

"I loved working with students one on one, helping them with their course choices, graduation requirements and career paths," she said.

FILE PHOTO

Peggy Donovan counseled thousands of students in 28 years on the staff at East Noble High School.

Her impact on thousands of students is her legacy.

"She pushed students to achieve, and worked tirelessly on their behalf to secure millions of dollars of scholarships that many would have never realized without her quiet behind-the-scene efforts," said Sprunger. "Peggy knew no boundaries when it came to helping young adults. On a regular basis, students and former students sought her out for issues related to their lives after high school or serious personal issues they were challenged with."

Donovan was instrumental in introducing a program in 1983 still used today, in which a guidance counselor at the high school mentors the same class from freshmen through senior years.

East Noble graduate Dorothy (Housholder) Dankel said of Donovan: "She was a wonderful behind-the-scenes woman who put students first and didn't expect any credit."

Munson agreed. "Many wonderful things she did went unnoticed, which suits her because she didn't want the spotlight. She would be the first to say, 'I don't do hoopla.'"

Linson said she misses Donovan.

"I've missed her at school this year, and often thought to myself, 'How would Peggy handle this?'" she said. "I will always remember Peggy, and will continue to hear her refer to the students as kiddos and little birds."

Donovan was born in Anderson on April 15, 1952, to Clarence and Barbara Neil (Swift) Crouch. Her father preceded her in death.

She married Richard Julian Donovan on July 12, 1980, in Alexandria. He survives.

In 1988, she received the Indiana Association for Counseling and Development's Secondary Counselor Award.

During her retirement, she enjoyed spending time and talking with her close friends and enjoyed reading fiction and traveling. One of her favorite things to do was dining out and trying new restaurants in the area.

She is buried in Lake View Cemetery of Kendallville.

Sandra Moore

AUBURN — Sandra K. Moore, 58, of Auburn died Sunday, March 30, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Moore was a homemaker and a member of the Living Waters Baptist Church in Garrett. She was a volunteer for the food bank at the Good Samaritan Center in Auburn. She enjoyed crocheting and writing poetry.

She was born Aug. 23, 1949, in Salem, Ohio, to Merle and Grace (Sefton) Ruble, who are both deceased. She married Edward Moore on Sept. 2, 1967, in Auburn. He survives.

Other survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Nicole Moore of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and Scott Aschliman of Auburn; three grandchildren, Brennan Moore, Bailee Moore and Caitlin Aschliman; three brothers, Norman Casto of Salem, Elmer Casto of North Jackson, Ohio, and Jim Ruble of Butler; and two sisters, Laura Hartsock of Montpelier, Ohio, and Beulah Lewis of Alliance, Ohio.

There will be no services.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the family.

Thomas Stebing

FORT WAYNE — Thomas James Weimer Stebing, 59, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Garrett died Friday, March 28, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He worked as an art teacher in various schools in the Fort Wayne area. He was a lifetime volunteer for several children's ministries. He attended Fellowship Missionary Church in Fort Wayne. He was an accomplished artist and loved music and acting.

He was a 1966 graduate of Garrett High School and a 1970 graduate of Northwestern University. He later received his master's degree from Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne.

He was born June 4, 1948, in Ohio to Roger W. and Erma Jean (Baltz) Stebing. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Auburn.

In addition to his mother, other survivors include a daughter, Joanna Stebing of Fort Wayne; an aunt, Helen (Stebing) Bussell of Auburn; an uncle and aunt, Donald and Linda Stebing of Fort Wayne; cousins, Jayne and David McClellan and Carol Reese, all of Auburn, Beth and Doug Lamb of Lafayette, and Gina and Joe Copeland of Fort Wayne.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Stephen Kummernuss of St. Mark's Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials are to the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Wayne, 2609 Fairfield Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Arrangements are by H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, Angola.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to include calling hours.*

Thomas Stebing

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Calling will be one hour before services at McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home.

Memorials are to the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Wayne, 2609 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Arrangements are by H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, Angola.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Gerald Teixeira

AUBURN — Gerald Teixeira, 79, of Auburn died Monday, March 31, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Teixeira worked as a department manager in Kings Department Store in Fort Wayne for 18 years, retiring in 1981. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and a former member of the Garrett Eagles. He played soccer at the Fort Wayne Sport Club.

He was born Feb. 27, 1929, in Georgetown, British Guiana, to John C. and Ulalie (DeSousa) Teixeira, who are both deceased.

He married Norma Y. Rodrigues on Nov. 15, 1950, in South America, and she survives.

In addition to his wife, other survivors include four sons and two daughters-in-law, Clayton and Debbie Teixeira of Garrett, Gary Teixeira of Fort Wayne, Keith and Laura Teixeira of Boulder, Colo., and Rich Teixeira of Fort Wayne; two daughters and a son-in-law, Pat and John Blotkamp of Garrett and Marilyn Teixeira of Indianapolis; six grandchildren and their spouses, David Teixeira, Derek and Julie Teixeira, Derren and Christine Teixeira, Jennifer Blotkamp, Alex Teixeira and Andre Teixeira; and a great-granddaughter, Paige Teixeira.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Compton, Joseph and Vibart Teixeira; and two sisters, Olive Motayne and Olga Teixeira.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn with Father Babasino Fernandez officiating. Burial will be in the Auburn Catholic Cemetery.

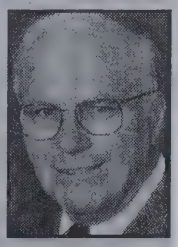
Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and one hour prior to the funeral Friday. A rosary service will be Thursday at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Wendell Hughes

HAMILTON — Wendell D. Hughes DDS, 80, of Hamilton died Monday, March 31, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hughes practiced dentistry in Butler for 34 years, retiring in 1991. He served in the U.S. Army as a captain in the Dental Corps.



Mr. Hughes

He was a graduate of Topeka High School, Goshen College and Indiana University School of Dentistry. He was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church, the American Dental Association and the Isaac Knapp Dental Association. He received the Paul Harris Fellow Rotarian Award and was very active in Matthew 25 and the United Methodist Volunteers in Missions.

He was born Feb. 24, 1928, in Scott Center to Dale Hughes Sr. and Wilma (Cole) Hughes. They preceded him in death.

He married Joan Yoder on Dec. 20, 1946, in Bloomington, and she survives.

Also surviving are four children and their spouses, Vicki and Larry Arnold of Fort Wayne, Wendy and Dennis Kepler of Waterloo, Dr. Daniel and Debra Hughes of Fort Wayne and Mary Beth and Gerry Rippy of Greenwood; grandchildren, Jeffrey and Deanna Arnold, Jennifer and Richard Runestad, Ryan and Heidi Kepler, Jo Dee and David Thompson, Bradley Hughes and Lauren Hughes; four stepgrandchildren and their spouses, Jennifer and Brent Lockwood, Vicki Woods, Becky and Curtis Reynolds and Patrick and Audrey Rippy; five great-grandchildren; and eight stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by twin daughters, Pamela Ray and Judith Kay; a brother, Dale Hughes Jr.; and a sister, Betty Joyce Myers.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. at the Butler United Methodist Church, 501 W. Green St., Butler, with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial will be in the Eden Cemetery, Topeka.

Calling will be Thursday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the church and one hour prior to services Friday.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church.

The H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Butler is in charge of arrangements, Condolences and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Earl Carsten

ANGOLA — Earl J. Carsten, 93, of Auburn and formerly of Steuben County died Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at Crosswood Centre in Auburn.

Mr. Carsten worked his entire career in the dairy industry, serving as past president of the Indiana Dairy Products Association.

He served many community projects and was named the 1991 Older Hoosier of the year. He was a member of the Clear Lakes Lions Club and the Community of the Cross.

He was born on a farm near Lowell on Aug. 8, 1914, the son of William and Mary Carsten.

He is survived by his wife, Isabelle, of Auburn; a son, the Rev. E. Brian Carsten of Auburn; two nieces; a nephew; as well as many friends.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola. Burial will be held at a later date in the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene at Crosswood Centre.

Calling will be from 2 p.m. until the service at the church.

Memorials are to the Crosswood Centre Buidling Fund.

Arrangements by Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

THE EVENING STAR
April 2 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Jennifer Seigel

AUBURN — Jennifer Lynne Seigel, 44, of Auburn died Monday, March 31, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Seigel was a homemaker and a member of the Soul's Harbor Assembly of God in rural Auburn. She was involved in DeKalb Area Schools at Home (DASH).

Mrs. Seigel

Mrs. Seigel was born June 30, 1963, in Freeport, Texas, to Robert N. Bashaw and Carey (Pruett) Walton. Her father survives in Tampa, Fla., and her mother survives in Auburn.

She married Jeff Seigel on July 11, 1987, in West Columbia, Texas, and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two daughters, Candy Elizabeth Seigel and Joy Lynne Seigel, both of Auburn; two sons, Michael James Seigel and Josiah David Seigel, both of Auburn; a brother, John Louis Bashaw of Tampa, Fla.; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Laura and Barry Smith of Belize, Central America, and Rhonda and Tommy Weaver of St. Louis, Mo.; and 15 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Robin Bashaw.

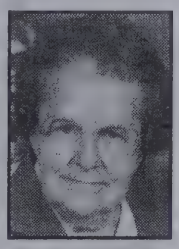
Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Soul's Harbor Assembly of God in Auburn with Pastor David Snodderly officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. There will also be calling one hour prior to the funeral service at the church on Saturday.

Memorials are to a college education fund for the Seigel children in care of Jeff Seigel.

Helen Neidig

KENDALLVILLE — Helen Naomi Neidig, 82, of Kendallville died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.


Mrs. Neidig

Mrs. Neidig had worked at Kendallville Laundry and at Lyall Electric in Ashley.

She enjoyed taking walks and gardening.

Mrs. Neidig was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

She was born in Kendallville on April 11, 1925, to William and Edna (Reichard) Kimpel. She married Roy Alfred Neidig on April 24, 1949, at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville. He preceded her death May 13, 1990.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Lois and Roger Maxwell of Kendallville; a grandson, Sean Maxwell of Kendallville; a granddaughter and her husband, Carrie and Hans Huelsenbeck of Kendallville; a great-granddaughter, Ava Grace Maxwell; two sisters, Ruth Hons of Fort Meyers Beach, Fla., and Dorothy Drake of Terre Haute; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Paul and Bernita Kimpel and Earl Kimpel, all of Kendallville.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Pauline Stewart; and three brothers, Martin, Carl and Art Kimpel.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul B. Griebel officiating. Burial will be at Fairfield Center Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the East Wing at Shepherd of the Hill.

Send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

Helen Barger

GARRETT — Helen M. Barger, 76, of Garrett died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Barger

She was a lifetime Garrett resident. She worked for Bauman and Harnish in Garrett, retiring in 1994 with 28 years of service.

She was a member and greeter at First Baptist Church of Garrett and a member of Garrett Eagles Auxiliary and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

She was born May 31, 1931, in DeKalb County to Arthur N. and Lucy F. (Beard) Newcomer.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Robin and Keith Potter, Patsy and Garry Thornsbearry Sr. and Lori and Rick Hatton, all of Garrett; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jeff and Barb Barger, and Terry and Carol Barger, all of Garrett; seven brothers, Richard Newcomer of Auburn, Jerry Newcomer of Kendallville, Lyle Newcomer of Ligonier, Charles Newcomer of Wisconsin, Dean Newcomer and Max Newcomer, both of Idaho, and Dale Newcomer of California; a sister, Doris Kees of Garrett; 15 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Timmy Barger, and a great-granddaughter.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Garrett with the Rev. David Mix officiating. Burial will be in Embrey Cemetery of rural Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to First Baptist Church or RSVP.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Lois Best

INDIANAPOLIS — Lois K. Best, 82, of Indianapolis died Monday, March 24, 2008.

She was born in Garrett to John and Florence (Hyde) Freeze. They preceded her in death.

Mrs. Best lived in Garrett until 1985, when she moved to Indianapolis.

Surviving are her husband, Norman W. Best Sr.; two sons, Norman W. Best Jr. and Jeff L. Best; and a sister, LeAnna Friend.

Services were Saturday in Indianapolis.

Memorials are to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 88517, Indianapolis, IN 46208-8517.

Robert Peverly

EDGERTON, Ohio — Robert Thomas Peverly, 79, of Edgerton, Ohio, died Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 10 p.m. in Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers of Bryan, Ohio, where he was a patient.

Mr. Peverly

A 1955 graduate of Adrian College at Adrian, Mich., Mr. Peverly received a bachelor's degree in education. In 1956, he began teaching mathematics in the Edgerton Schools, where he taught for 32 years. He coached cross country, junior high basketball, high school boys basketball, high school girls basketball and 17 years of baseball, participating in the state baseball tournament in 1979 and placing as runner-up.

He was also a long-time director of the summer recreation association in Edgerton. In 1972, he started the Port-A-Pit BBQ business.

Mr. Peverly was a member of the Lick Creek Church of the Brethren in Bryan, Ohio, a past member of the Edgerton Masonic Lodge, and Past Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star.

He was a member of the Edgerton Lions Club, serving as charter president when it was reorganized in 1985. He held the position of president three times, as well as membership chairman and tail twister. In 1987, he received the Lion of the Year Award and in 1998, he received the honored Melvin Jones Award.

In 2000, he and his wife, Iva, were recognized as Edgerton Citizens of the Year.

He was born Jan. 31, 1929, in East Greenbush, N.Y., to Thomas Lidell and Ethel Beatrice (Smith) Peverly.

He married Iva Ann Ruder on Aug. 21, 1954, in North Adams, Mich., and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Dean Thomas and Susan Peverly, of Hicksville, Ohio, David Ray and Ounleyn Peverly of Auburn, Daniel Lydell and Leona Peverly, of Edgerton, Ohio, and Dale Robert and Annette Peverly, of Findlay, Ohio; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two bonus grandchildren and six bonus great-grandchildren; one brother, Richard Lidell Peverly, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and one sister-in-law, Barbara Peverly, of Rensselaer, N.Y.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Ronald William Peverly, and one sister-in-law, Mary Peverly.

Services will be Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Edgerton Elementary School gymnasium, with Dr. Bryon Hawbecker officiating. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery of Edgerton.

Visitation will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. in Krill Funeral Home at Edgerton.

Memorials are to the Edgerton Lions Club.

Condolences may be sent and an online guest register may be signed at krillfuneralservice.com.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to provide additional information.*

Richard Hinkley

ANGOLA — Richard L. Hinkley, 76, died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, in Hillsdale, Mich.

Mr. Hinkley was a self-employed milk-handler.

He was born May 22, 1931, in LaGrange to Clair and Geneva (Dyer) Hinkley. He married Mindy Burger on Aug. 17, 1994. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Ted Hinkley of Angola, and Jeffrey Hinkley of Hamilton; three daughters, Beverly McPherson of Hudson, Barbara Wolf, and Bobbie Joann "Joni" Timpe, all of Angola; a half brother, Paul McClanahan of Sturgis, Mich.; 16 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; eight stepchildren, Julie Uecker of Fort Wayne, Micah Burger of Angola, Jason Burger of Mongo, Nolan Burger of Bristol, Erinn Chapman, Loren Burger, and Lucas Burger, all of Garrett; and Craig Burger of Japan.

He was preceded in death by a son, Mark, in 1979.

Graveside services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday at Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

There is no calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
April 4 2008

John Sawvel

FORT WAYNE — John D. Sawvel, 51, of Fort Wayne and a former longtime resident of Angola, died suddenly Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Sawvel

He was formerly employed at Scott's Foods in Fort Wayne as a carry-out attendant. He was most recently employed at Easter Seals ARC as a production worker. He was a member of Aboite Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

He was born Nov. 1, 1956, in Angola to Walter S. and Ireta A. (Bever) Sawvel. His mother survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sisters and brothers-in-law, Dora H. and Clarence Thorne of Butler and Elsa M. and Frederick Heimach, also of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

A stepbrother, Walter Nelson Sawvel, preceded him in death.

Graveside services will be Monday at 1:30 p.m. in Eddy Cemetery at Hamilton, with Pastor Rich Pagan officiating.

There will be no calling.

Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home & Crematory of Hamilton is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to Lutheran Disability Outreach, 330 Madison St., P.O. Box 11329, Fort Wayne, IN 46857, to the attention of the Rev. Brian Pratt, director.

Condolences may be sent and a guest register may be signed at oberlin-ford.com.

Richard Shull

ST. JOE — Richard C. Shull, 81, died Thursday, April 3, 2008, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He was born Sept. 12, 1926, in Hicksville, Ohio.

Surviving are his wife, Shirley; three daughters and sons-in-law, Beth and Dennis Keller of St. Joe, Martha and Melvin Steury of Spencerville and Cathy and Ivan Sherman of Pendleton; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, JoAnn Miller of Hicksville, Ohio, and Marion Oatman of Wapakoneta, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Maxine Metz, and a brother, William.

There will be no calling or services.

Smith & Brown Funeral Home of Hicksville, Ohio, is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
April 5 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Richard Schlotter

KENDALLVILLE — Richard Godfrey Schlotter, 70, of Kendallville died Friday, April 4, 2008, at his residence.

He graduated in 1956 from White's Institute in Wabash where he played football and ran track. He was retired from Kraft Foods in Kendallville after more than 40 years of employment.

Mr. Schlotter

He liked fishing, hunting and bird watching, and he was interested in the outdoors.

Mr. Schlotter was a local Boy Scout Troop 103 leader in the 1970s, and a member of Ducks Unlimited. He was also a member of the National Rifle Association and the Kendallville Eagles Lodge. He was a Notre Dame fan and was a coin collector.

On Dec. 21, 1937, in Avilla, he was born to Godfrey Benedict and Leah Laverne (Harriger) Schlotter.

Surviving are his former wife and lifelong friend Tilda Mae Schlotter of Waldron Lake, Wawaka; a daughter, Evon Marie Schlotter of Lockport, Ill.; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Timothy James and Mary-Catherine Manuel Schlotter, and Ken Schlotter, all of Kendallville; six grandchildren, Timothy Jay, Alyxandra Marie, Jeremey, Zachary and Antoinette Schlotter, and Yvonne Simmons; a great-grandson, Nathanial James Schlotter; a brother and sister-in-law, Charles "Jedd" and Judy Schlotter of Choctaw, Okla.; and three sisters and a brother-in-law, Sharon and Charles Laws and Rebecca Wert, all of Avilla, and Cheryl Miller of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Richard Godfrey Schlotter who died in May 1998; and a brother, Robert Schlotter.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with Father Lourdino Fernandes officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery in Rome City.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
April 6 2008

Elvis and bowling were his things

Alliance Industries worker Jerry Pfeiffer 'had a good life'

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Jerry Pfeiffer loved everything Elvis, according to friends and family.

His death on March 11 at 61 came as a shock to many, who thought he would be around forever — just like The King.

"When Elvis sang his first song, that must have been Jerry listening," Margaret Randol said.

Pfeiffer, who was mentally challenged, lived with Randol through the week so he could work at Alliance Industries in Garrett. Randol's son, Justin, who has Down syndrome, also is employed at the nonprofit workshop for the developmentally disabled and a good friend of Pfeiffer.

"Jerry was a dedicated worker," said Alliance executive director Lili Hand.

Pfeiffer packaged and assembled parts for various local industries four days a week. He missed work only when he was sick, which was very seldom, she said.

"He was always willing to help his co-workers when they needed parts. Jerry was generous to a fault — he had a good heart," Hand said.

Pfeiffer was a longtime worker at Alliance Industries, previously known as Wee Haven Activity Center. In the 1950s, his mother, Dorothy, was among a group of parents who founded the school for developmentally-disabled children, where Pfeiffer was among the first students.

Dorothy Pfeiffer also lived with the Randols for a few years until she was placed in a Fort Wayne nursing home about five years ago, suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Jerry Pfeiffer was expected to live only to age 21, according to his older sister, Pat Tagtmeyer of Fort Wayne, with whom he lived three days a week. Pfeiffer died two weeks shy of his 62nd birthday.

"We all thought he would outlive everyone," Tagtmeyer said. But the family worried about his care, in case he did. An apparent massive heart attack took his life while he was sleeping at his sister's home.

"It was a real shock," said Tagtmeyer.

Pfeiffer's room at the Tagtmeyer home was a veritable Elvis museum — including an inflatable chair, blankets, lamps, and a life-size cut out of "The King," Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdinck, Elvis and the Beatles were his favorites at first, according to his sister-in-law, Debbie Pfeiffer of Garrett. "Then it was just Elvis."

"He was a hugger," Debbie Pfeiffer said. "He would put his arm around me, put his head on my shoulder and say 'I love you.' That was Jerry."

Pfeiffer's father, John, never wanted Jerry to go into a group home, Debbie Pfeiffer said, adding, "That's a decision we won't have to make."

"He always had a smile," Tagtmeyer said. And he loved to help around the house.

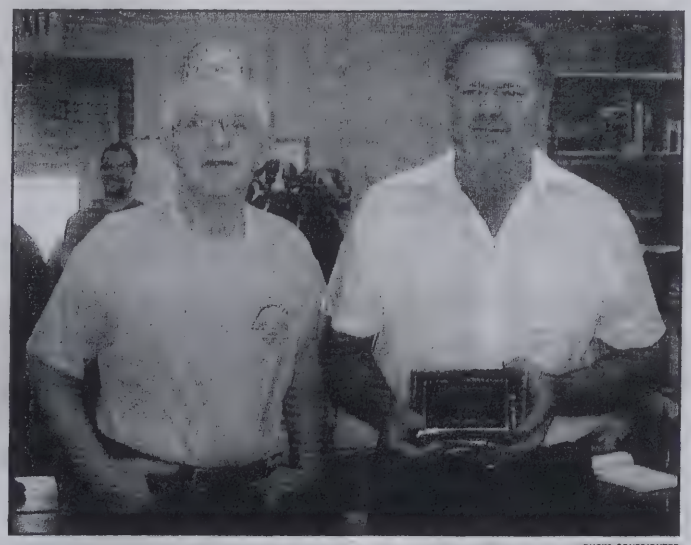


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jerry Pfeiffer, left, and his brother, Dale Pfeiffer, accepted a lifetime award in honor of their mother, Dorothy Pfeiffer, at Alliance Industries' 50th anniversary open house in October 2007.

"Jerry wanted to fix things, but he was not always capable," she said. Pfeiffer also liked to go shopping with his sister.

The Tagtmeyers once took Pfeiffer to visit Elvis' Graceland home.

"That meant so much to him," Randol said.

He also enjoyed concerts featuring a local Elvis impersonator, Todd Herendeen.

Even though he had every song Elvis possibly recorded, if Jerry found a CD with a different cover, he had to have it, Debbie Pfeiffer said.

Pfeiffer's favorite Presley song was "Hound Dog" according to Randol.

"We used to take Jerry to the Moose in Auburn to karaoke," she said, "but the only word you could hear him sing was 'dog.'"

Finding Elvis merchandise for Christmas gifts became harder each year, according to Debbie Pfeiffer.

She found a woman who made an Elvis costume for Pfeiffer — a Las Vegas-type white jumpsuit, complete with a rhinestone eagle on the back.

"It was the hit of the season!" said Debbie Pfeiffer. Jerry Pfeiffer put it on right away and wore it to work a couple of times to show it off to his co-workers.

"Bowling and Elvis — that was his thing," according to Hand.

Pfeiffer was a good bowler and was very proud of the Elvis Presley bowling ball and matching carrying bag his family found for him on eBay. The family tried in vain to find him an Elvis bowling shirt.

Pfeiffer and fellow Alliance Industries workers bowled together every week. He also bowled in the Big Brothers-Big Sisters annual fundraiser and competed in the Special Olympics, earning several medals and trophies.

"He wanted to participate in all the activities (at Alliance Industries)," Hand said. He joined in the Relay for Life event and was a charter member of the Aktion Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

"Everybody liked Jerry — he was unforgettable. When he was upset about something, his ears would wiggle," Hand said. "Everyone could tell when he became upset — his ears got going!"

Pfeiffer could make his ears wiggle at will, to the delight of his niece and nephews.

He also loved to watch television — shows such as "I Love Lucy" and "In the Heat of the Night" were among his favorites, Randol said.

And he liked listening to music — all Elvis or songs from the 1960s.

"If anyone came to the house and he didn't know them, Jerry would get a big grin on his face, and we knew he would tell them all about Elvis," Randol said.

Pfeiffer also liked to ride his bike and would sit and watch the trains at the Garrett railroad crossing, she said.

He once got on a freight train and it began rolling down the tracks, according to Debbie Pfeiffer. Police stopped the train and threatened to take away his bicycle if he did it again.

Another time, he hitch-hiked to Auburn. Someone phoned his mother and asked if she knew her son was directing traffic in Auburn.

"He was very inquisitive — he had no fear," Debbie Pfeiffer said.

"Jerry didn't want for anything. He had a good life. That made it easier for the family," she said. "His family has all kinds of memories — that's something they will always have. He'll live on.

"Anyone who every knew Jerry will always remember Jerry," Debbie Pfeiffer said. "Once he touched your life, that was there forever."

THE EVENING STAR
April 6 2008 Auburn, Indiana

James Rife

ANGOLA — James W. Rife, 32, of Angola died Friday, April 4, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital as the result of an auto accident.

He had worked at Gibson Heathing and Plumbing in Waterloo.

Mr. Rife enjoyed racing, boating, fishing and the outdoors.

He was born Jan. 3, 1976, in Wabash to Thomas and Linda (Crump) Rife. He married April (White) Rife on April 20, 2000. She survives in Angola.

Also surviving are his mother and step-father, Linda Fay and Steve Carpenter of Angola; father and step-mother, Tom and Kris Rife of Bowling Green, Ohio; three sons, Dakota Rife of Ottoville, Ohio, and Preston and Jarod Rife at home in Angola; a stepdaughter, Courtney Cottrell, at home in Angola; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mabel and Roger White of Wapakoneta, Ohio; grandparents, Paul and Mabel Rife of Laketon and Gene Crump of Wabash; grandmother-in-law, Adala White of Wapakoneta, Ohio; a sister, Christie Rife of Cincinnati, Ohio; a step-sister, Ashley Walter of Wapakoneta, and three stepbrothers, Shawn Carpenter of Angola and Aaron and Andrew Walter of Wapakoneta.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Father Brian Carsten officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be 12-2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family, care of April Rife.

Harvey Rennecker

AUBURN — Harvey W. Rennecker, 95, of Auburn died Friday, April 4, 2008, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

He was a carpenter and farmer before retiring in 1975.

He was born March 18, 1913, in DeKalb County. He married Eunice Harding on March 25, 1950, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a son, Will Rennecker of Auburn and a brother-in-law and his wife, Robert and Wilma Harding of Hicksville, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Herman Rennecker, and three sisters, Jessie Platter, Gladys Hutton and Joyce Hutton.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Corunna Cemetery in Corunna.

Memorials are to The Billy Graham Evangelical Association or the Heffer Project International.

Margaret Pfeiffer

KENDALLVILLE — Margaret Mae Pfeiffer, 89, of Kendallville died Sunday, April 6, 2008, at 10:50 p.m. in Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville. She had resided at the nursing home for 15 years.

Mrs. Pfeiffer

Mrs. Pfeiffer had lived in Kendallville since 1968. She had been a beautician since 1956, owning Margaret's Beauty Shop on Main Street and later moving it into her Lisle Street home.

She was a member of the First Christian Church in Kendallville, the Mary Ruth Circle, Kendallville Elks Club, VFW Post 2749 Auxiliary, and the Kendallville American Legion Post 86 Auxiliary. She was a golfer and bowler, and belonged to the Berhalter Furniture Store Bowling League for many years.

She was born Aug. 22, 1918, in Ari to Charles and Jenny (Wappes) Neible. She married Bernard Pfeiffer on July 17, 1937, in Auburn. He preceded her in death on July 25, 1971.

Surviving are five grandchildren, Terri Pfeiffer, David Mark Pfeiffer, David Paul Pfeiffer, Mark Pfeiffer and Michelle Pfeiffer; two great-grandchildren, Payton Pfeiffer and Ethan Pfeiffer; and six half sisters.

She was also preceded in death by two sons, Jack Pfeiffer and David Pfeiffer; a brother, John Neible; and her stepmother, Georgia Neible.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with Pastors Thomas Clothier and Robert Farmer of First Christian Church officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will be Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memorials are to the First Christian Church, 110 W. Waits Road, Kendallville.

Condolences may be sent to the family at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Doler Bevis

GARRETT — Doler E. "Cherokee" Bevis, 81, of Garrett died Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 1:03 a.m. at Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana.

He owned and operated Cherokee Construction until his retirement in 1988.

He was born Aug. 18, 1926, in Redlands, Calif., to Claude E. and Ruth J. (Pierce) Bevis.

A memorial service was held today at Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett.

Michael Immel

BUTLER — Michael A. Immel, 48, of Butler died Saturday, April 5, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Immel was a member of American Legion Post 202 at Butler and the Teamsters Union. He worked at Tri Wall in Butler for 28 years and was a union steward there.

He was born March 7, 1960, in Auburn to the Rev. Clair Immel and Ellen (Hamman) Immel. His father survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sisters and a brother-in-law, Marsha Immel of Auburn and Lisa and Marc Smith of Butler; a brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Jessie Latta of Fort Wayne; two nieces, Nicole Immel and Brittany Smith; and four nephews, Codey Greuter, Derek Greuter, Seth Smith and Marshall Latta.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. in Souls Harbor Assembly of God Church, 3810 C.R. 40-A, Auburn. The Rev. David Snodderly wil officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

THE EVENING STAR
April 9 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Russell Spice

AUBURN — Russell A. Spice, 85, of Auburn died Monday, April 7, 2008, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mr. Spice served as executive vice president of Northern Indiana Fuel and Light Co. in Auburn for 30 years, retiring in 1985. He was a director of Peoples Bancorp from 1974 to 2007 and served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946. He was a golfer.

He was born Jan. 9, 1923, in Charlotte, Mich., to Charles H. and Lydia H. (Chatfield) Spice.

He married Garnet (Pfister) Spice on Nov. 3, 1956, in Auburn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
April 10 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Wayne Scattergood

AUBURN — Wayne F. Scattergood, 77, of Auburn died Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Scattergood was a dairy and grain farmer. He graduated from Waterloo High School in 1948. He was a member of Zion 16 Lutheran Church and the DeKalb County Farm Mutual Board.

He was born Sept. 11, 1930, in DeKalb County to Karl and Hazel Scattergood.

He married JoAnne Hartman on Feb. 12, 1950, at Zion 16 Lutheran Church. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are two daughters and one son-in-law, Cindy Scattergood and Leabeth and Barry Smith, all of Auburn; one son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Rena Scattergood of Auburn; four grandchildren and their spouses, Amy and Chris Dooley of Temple, Texas, Sara Smith of College Station, Texas, Jason and Heather Scattergood of Kendallville, and Karl Scattergood of Auburn; a great-grandson, Kyle Dooley of Temple, Texas; and two stepgreat-grandsons, Noah Renfrow and Dawson Howey, both of Kendallville.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. John Stuck officiating. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery in DeKalb County.

Calling will be Friday from 3-8 p.m. and Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Zion 16 Lutheran Church, 2849 C.R. 17, Corunna.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
April 11 2008

Sarah Lung

GARRETT — A memorial service for Sarah I. "Izzy" Lung, 81, of Garrett will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Pastor Jim Lilley will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling wil be Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Mrs. Lung died March 19, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She worked at Wyatt's Hardware and then at Essex Wire until her retirement in 1972. She was a member of the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary and Garrett Eagles Auxiliary.

She was born May 26, 1926, in North Judson to Harry W. and Octava (Geyer) Kelley.

She married Lawrence H. "Pete" Lung on May 18, 1946. He died Nov. 22, 2004.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Richard Muzzillo of Angola; three sons and daughters-in-law, Harry and Angela Lung and Larry and Jody Lung, all of Garrett, and Paul and Anita Degrasse of Clinton, N.C.; a brother, Harry Kelley of Angola; two sisters, Audrey Beaty of Angola and Linda Mann of Pleasant Lake; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, William and Harold Kelley; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

To sign an online guestbook or send a condolence, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
April 12 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Fern Goldsmith

SPENCERVILLE — Fern Maxine Goldsmith, 89, of Spencerville died Thursday evening, April 10, 2008, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Goldsmith worked as a Spencerville telephone operator and retired from Cooper Tire after 18 years of service. She was a member of Coburn Corners Church of Christ.

She was born Nov. 24, 1918, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Earl and Ethel (Maxwell) Warner.

She married Harold J. Goldsmith on Feb. 16, 1938. He died Jan. 25, 2004.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Earl and Barbara Goldsmith of Butler and Walter Goldsmith of Spencerville; seven grandchildren; five foster grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and 18 foster great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Glen and Lester Warner, and a sister, Gladys Ridenour.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville, with Pastor Doug Holley and Pastor Brian Wilcox officiating. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be Monday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Coburn Corners Church of Christ, 6813 C.R. 64, St. Joe, IN 46785.

THE EVENING STAR
April 13 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Reiff worked hard, lived dreams

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Lyle Reiff, who died Feb. 22, was a man who worked very hard to make his dreams a reality, his children said.

Reiff, who spent much of his early life going to Lake George during the summers with his own parents, spent his adult life trying to give his own children that lake experience, his son Lyle said.

"We'd do everything on the water," Lyle Reiff said. "We would always go out together. We would learn to ride on these wooden boards, that were kind of like surfboards, only we'd stand up on them. We all learned to ski using those boards."

Reiff's daughter, Jody DuBois of Fort Wayne, had similar memories.

"Mostly, he just loved the water, the environment" DuBois said. "He loved the watersports. He was a good athlete, he played football at (Fort Wayne) South Side." Her father, DuBois said, made his family the focus of all of the fun they could have on the water. "He taught me how to drive the boat when I was very young. That's what he loved about being at the lake, it was a family thing for him to be there."

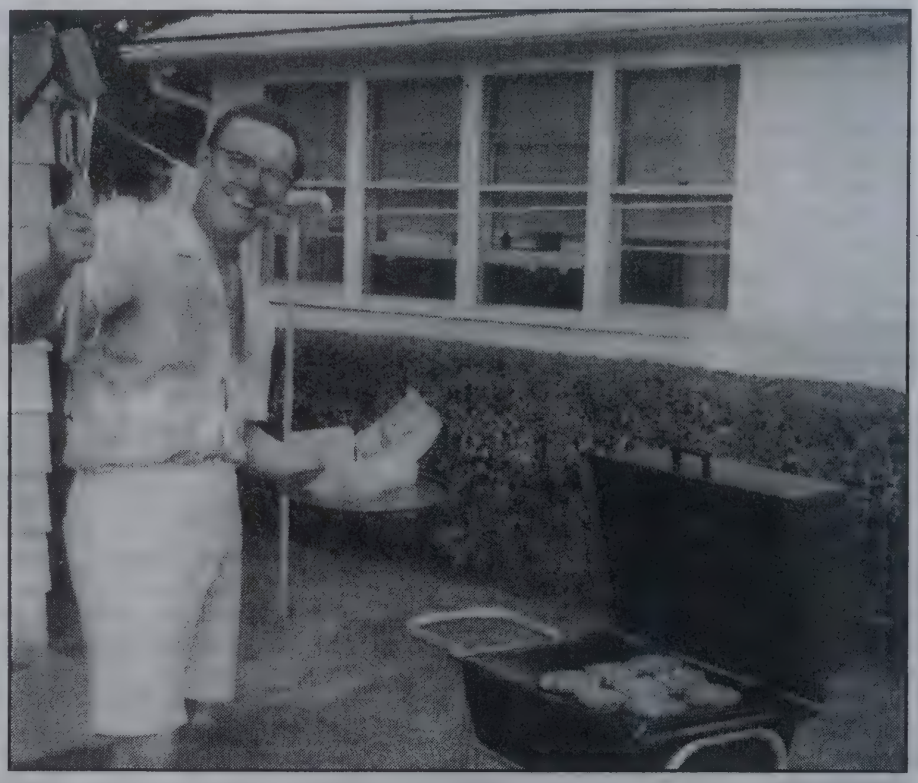


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lyle Reiff was remembered by his children as a man who loved family time spent outdoors, especially when the family came to their home on Lake George.

Reiff worked for most of his career as a pharmacist in Fort Wayne, mostly at his own corner pharmacy, though he later worked for Hook's Drugs in Fort Wayne, LaGrange and Angola.

Lyle Reiff said when his family moved to Lake George on a permanent basis, his father initially commuted to Fort Wayne, with the intention of retiring within a few years.

"They asked him if he would take over the LaGrange location," Reiff said, significantly shortening his father's commute in the years before his retirement. Reiff would also fill in at the Angola location of the pharmacy.

"My dad worked very hard," DuBois said. This extended back to his time at school. "My dad got straight A's at Purdue. He joked that the only subject he ever got a B in was marriage."

While he meant that as a joke, DuBois said, Reiff's marriage to his wife, Wilma, was anything if not a lasting one.

"They were devoted to each other," DuBois said. "It was always very clear that they were devoted and they were in it for the long haul." Wilma died in 1998.

While Reiff loved the water in the summertime, as many do, his passion also extended to the frozen variety. Reiff's love of ice skating, which he shared with his children, blossomed as he got older. "After he retired, he really got into it," she said.

Reiff went beyond skating for fun with the family, however. After his retirement from the pharmacy, Reiff spent much of his time traveling throughout the Midwest and to California, where his daughter Dianne Clendedin lives, judging ice skating competitions, eventually moving to one of the highest levels for judges.

"He compared it to those guys in the Midwest who have full time jobs and then referee Big 10 football games on Saturdays," Lyle Reiff said.

Varold Morgan

GARRETT — Varold A. Morgan, 88, of Garrett died Saturday, April 12, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Morgan

Mr. Morgan worked as an engineer on the B&O Railroad for five years. He then worked as a machine operator for International Harvester, retiring in 1981 with 39 years of service.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving from 1944-1946.

Mr. Morgan was born Nov. 28, 1919, in Continental, Ohio.

His wife of 64 years, Mary M. (Heffley) Morgan, preceded him in death.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Judy S. and Donald Schiffli of Waterloo and Lana and Terry Miller of Delphos, Ohio; two sisters, Vivian Westrick of Holgate, Ohio, and Ladonna Schiffli of Waterloo; a brother, Melvin Morgan of Toledo, Ohio; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one stepgrandchild; and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Arthur, Ray and Vance Morgan, and a sister, Imo Wilkle.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Home Health & Hospice Services or the National Multiple Sclerois Society.

Russell Miller

ASHLEY — A memorial service for Russell D. Miller will be Sunday, April 20, at 2 p.m. at the Independent Full Gospel Church, Ashley. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery.

Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller, 80, of Animas, N.M., died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, at Sunshine Haven nursing home in Lordsburg, N.M.

He was born June 7, 1927, in northeastern Indiana to Cecil and Bessie Miller. Mr. Miller enlisted in the Marine Corps during World War II. The war ended just before he completed basic training. His assignments included MP duty aboard a troop carrier, then driving a truck. After his tour of duty in the Marine Corps, he worked for 40 years as a professional truck driver. He retired to Arizona and later moved to New Mexico, where he spent his remaining years.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan Musser; four sons, Michael "Mark" Miller, Ed Miller, Fred Miller and Troy Miller; four brothers, David Miller, Gene Miller, Paul Miller and Tom Miller; and four sisters, Margie, Ann, Judy and Jane.

He was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Miller; two brothers, Wayne Miller and Joseph Miller; and two grandchildren, David McCosh and Jamie McCosh.

Bernard Kennedy

AUBURN — Bernard Reed Kennedy, 77, of Auburn died Sunday, April 13, 2008, in Auburn.

Mr. Kennedy worked as a supervisor at Mossberg Industries in Garrett. He was a nine-year member and a past president of the Kiwanis Club. He belonged to St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Albion.

He was born May 12, 1930, in Cambridge, Ohio.

Surviving are his wife, Hilda (Lobb) Kennedy; two daughters, Karen Fussner of Surprise, Ariz., and Susan Cyran of Waterloo; two sons, Kurt Kennedy of Las Vegas, Nev., and David Kennedy of Tahoe City, Calif.; a sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Ray Brothers of Quaker City, Ohio; two grandchildren, Christina LaSpina and her husband, Michael, of Flagstaff, Ariz., and Jordan Cobbs of Waterloo; and a great-grandchild, Allessandra LaSpina of Flagstaff, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by a son, Greg Kennedy; two brothers, Rex and Warren Kennedy; and one sister, Mae Kelch.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be at a later date.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Alzheimer's Association, Greater Indiana Chapter, 9135 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260, and St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Albion.

Bonnie Flath

LAGRANGE — Bonnie S. Flath, 60, of LaGrange died Sunday, April 13, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Flath was a lifetime LaGrange County resident.

She had worked at Sealed Power Corp. in LaGrange for 27 years.

Mrs. Flath was a member of East Springfield United Methodist Church, LaGrange.

She was born Aug. 28, 1947, in Sturgis, Mich., to Arthur and Wilma (Coney) Dunafin. She married Everett E. Flath Jr. on Nov. 25, 1967, in Ashley. He died March 2, 2005.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and Kevin Light of LaGrange; two grandchildren, Kody and Audrey Light, both of LaGrange; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Donna and Kenneth Northup and Shirley Freed, all of LaGrange; a brother and sister-in-law, Jerald and Emily Dunafin of LaGrange; 16 nieces and nephews; several great-nieces and nephews; and several great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Judith Northup.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange with the Rev. James Bartlett officiating. Burial will be in Brushy Chapel Cemetery, LaGrange.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or the LaGrange County Cancer Society.

Send condolences to the family at fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Larry Kirk

BUTLER — Larry D. Kirk, 69, of Butler died Thursday, April 3, 2008.

Mr. Kirk was the owner of Kirk Materials Inc. for 13 years. Before that, he had been a manager for Merritt's Inc. and National Serv-All. He also owned and operated GLK Inc. He was a member of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Mr. Kirk

He was born Feb. 26, 1939, in Wauseon, Ohio, to Dale H. and Florence Merrine (Kuhn) Kirk.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Trudy S. (Chaffins) Kirk of Butler; a son and daughter-in-law, Gavin and Sue Kirk of Waycross, Ga.; two daughters, Aleshia Kirk of Lakeland, Fla., and Kelly Kirk of Orlando, Fla.; one granddaughter, Jennifer Luther; and two great-grandsons of Orlando.

A memorial gathering will be Saturday, May 3, from 1-5 p.m. at Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home, 3985 E. Church St., Hamilton.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

An online guest register may be signed and condolences may be sent at oberlin-ford.com.

Carolyn Wann

AUBURN — Carolyn R. Wann, 84, of Auburn died Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born March 8, 1924, in LaCrosse, she was a member of Cedar Creek Church of Christ in Leo.

Mrs. Wann

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard and Sue Wann of Hicksville, Ohio, and Ron and Joan Wann of Butler; two daughters, Gloria Wann of Auburn and Marsha Hamric of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Max and Elsie Singleton of Mark Center, Ohio; six sisters, Gen Baumgart of Polaski, Wis., Mary Lou Mabis of Antwerp, Ohio, Molly Thompson of Auburn, Barbara Miller of Fort Wayne, Shirley Miller of New Haven and Betty Singleton of New Haven; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman; two brothers, Richard and Lavon Singleton; and a son-in-law, John Hamric.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne. Entombment will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health & Hospice.

Mary Jane Schiek

WATERLOO — Mary Jane Schiek, 83, of Waterloo died Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Schiek was a lifelong homemaker and worked in the deli and bakery at the Kroger store in Auburn. She also was a greeter at Wal-Mart in Auburn.

She attended various non-denominational churches in the area. Her hobbies were gardening, sewing and taking care of her family.

She was born March 23, 1925, in DeKalb County to Oscar and Marie Christlieb.

She married William E. Schiek in Angola on May 28, 1944. He died May 18, 2005.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Brad and Angel Schiek of Waterloo, Greg and Sue Schiek of Waterloo and Jeff and Cathy Schiek of Edgerton, Ohio; four daughters and sons-in-law, Betty and Dave Pippenger of Churubusco, Susan and Stephen Hull of Angola, Freda and Kerry Dickey of Waterloo and Lisa and Jeff Grimm of Waterloo; 24 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Ruby Whittington of Auburn, Martha Howey of Hamilton and Lulubelle Sutton of Orland; and a brother, Delbert Christlieb of Toledo, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by a sister and two brothers.

Services will be Thursday at 3 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Paul Patton and Don Hawver officiating. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Butler Church of the Nazarene or the Christian Assembly of God, Butler.

Ava Bungard

BUTLER — Ava J. Bungard, 88, of Butler died Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Bungard worked for the Gambles store in Butler for 12 years and Workers World of Butler for 14 years, retiring in 1996. She was a member of the Coburn Corners Church of Christ.

Mrs. Bungard

She was born Sept. 30, 1919, in Butler to Raymond and Lucy (Rummel) Palmerton. They preceded her in death.

She married Willis P. Bungard on Nov. 18, 1939, in Auburn. He died May 8, 1963.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Raymond and Marie Bungard of Bryan, Ohio, Jerry and Linda Bungard of Butler, Randy and Susan Bungard of Fort Wayne and Charles and Connie Bungard of Butler; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Carol Sweet of Fort Wayne, Sara and Jerry Leazenby of Waldron, Mich., Dianne Miller of Fort Wayne and Julie and James Rediger of Lake City, Fla.; 17 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons-in-law, Michael Sweet and Val Miller.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at the H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Doug Holley and Pastor Brian Wilcox officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Woodburn Christian Children's Home or the Coburn Corners Food Pantry.

To sign a guest register or view a video tribute, visit hejohnsonfh.com.

Jeffery Caldwell

BUTLER — Jeffery L. Caldwell, 44, of Butler died Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Caldwell had worked at DeKalb Molded Plastics and Evans Trucking.

He was born June 6, 1963, in Huntington to Rosalee (Caldwell) Pruitt. She preceded him in death.

He married Ronda Miller on June 29, 1998, in Tennessee, and she survives in Butler.

Also surviving are four sons and two daughters-in-law, Josh and Thelma Caldwell of Auburn, Jeffery Caldwell and Cody Caldwell, both of New Braunfels, Texas, and Brent and Linda Miller of Butler; a daughter, Heather Caldwell of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Mike Caldwell of Auburn and David Pruitt of Albion; a sister, Shawna Pruitt of Garrett; two stepchildren, Brandon Collins and Misty Collins, both of Butler; and five grandchildren, Dominique Caldwell, Quintin Saurbeck, Brian Miller, Cedric Collins and Autumn Collins.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

To send condolences or view a video tribute, visit hejohnsonfh.com.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted with additional information about survivors.*

Russell Miller

ASHLEY — A memorial service for Russell D. Miller will be Sunday, April 20, at 2 p.m. at the Independent Full Gospel Church n Ashley. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery.

Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller, 80, of Animas, N.M., died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, at Sunshine Haven nursing home in Lordsburg, N.M.

He was born June 7, 1927, in northeastern Indiana to Cecil and Bessie Miller. Mr. Miller enlisted in the Marine Corps during World War II. The war ended just before he completed basic training. His assignments included MP duty aboard a troop carrier, then driving a truck. After his tour of duty in the Marine Corps, he worked for 40 years as a professional truck driver. He retired to Arizona and later moved to New Mexico, where he spent his remaining years.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan Musser; four sons, Michael "Mark" Miller, Ed Miller, Fred Miller and Troy Miller; four brothers, David Miller, Gene Miller, Paul Miller and Tom Miller; four sisters, Margie, Ann, Judy and Jane; and three grandchildren, Jody McCosh, Jason McCosh and Angie Bolton.

He was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Miller; two brothers, Wayne Miller and Joseph Miller; and two grandchildren, David McCosh and Jamie McCosh.

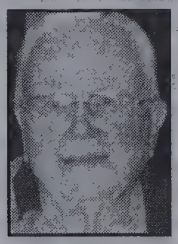
THE EVENING STAR
April 18 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Kendallville businessman R. Stan Emerick dies

SYRACUSE — Longtime Kendallville businessman and attorney R. Stan Emerick, 86, of Syracuse died Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 7:25 a.m. in Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Emerick had been with the Emerick & Diggins Law Firm since 1950.

He graduated from Wabash College and the University of Michigan. He served in the United States Navy during World War II.



Mr. Emerick

Mr. Emerick was a lifetime area resident. He served as the Kendallville city attorney for eight years, Noble County attorney for four years and was part of the Noble County Bar Association and the Indiana State Bar Association.

He served on the Kendallville Library Board for 15 years. He was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 2749, American Legion Post 86, Kendallville Elks Lodge and a member of the Kendallville Eagles Lodge.

He was born June 26, 1921, in Kendallville to Rex S. and Clara L. (Lemmon) Emerick. He married Catherine B. "Katy" (Curie) Emerick on March 17, 1947. She preceded him in death on Sept. 26, 1987. On Jan. 22, 2002, in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., he married Norma J. (Hampshire) Lehman. She survives in Syracuse.

Also surviving are a son, Rex S. Emerick Jr. of Jacksonville, Fla.; a grandson, Dustin Emerick of Jacksonville; a stepdaughter, Nola Farney of Garrett; and two stepsons, Bart Lehman of LaGrange and Herman Lehman of Kendallville.

Services will be at 2 p.m. at the Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Robert Muller officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or the Kendallville Public Library.

Send condolences to the family at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
April 19 2008 Auburn, Indiana

MaryEtta Zartman

BUTLER — MaryEtta Zartman, 59, died Friday, April 18, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Zartman was a homemaker.

She was born to Chester E. and Garnet B (Light) Kelley in Grant County.

She married Allen E. Zartman on July 27, 1975, in Salem. He survives.

Also surviving are a son, Adam Zartman of Butler; two sisters and brothers-in-law, LeAnna and Lyle Hood of Florida and Sharon Lee and Larry Long of Anderson; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Ronald and Nancy Zartman of Williamsport, Pa.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, Garnetta J. Zartman.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Life Changing Realities Fellowship in Edgerton, Ohio, with Pastors Brian Adams and Eric Burkhardt officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 3-7 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler.

Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Memorials are to her church, Gideons International society or the American Diabetes Association.

Fremont businessman Robert Underwood dies

FREMONT — Robert Neal "Bob" Underwood, 75, of Lake George, Fremont, and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Thursday, April 17, 2008, at Lakeland Nursing Center in Angola.

Mr. Underwood

Mr. Underwood was currently the owner of Bubba's Pizza and Bubba's Toledo Street Grill in Fremont. He was owner of and entertainer at the former The Picker nightclub in Fort Wayne. He formerly worked at the Fort Wayne Parks Department, Dana Corp. and International Harvester.

Mr. Underwood was a U.S. Army Korean War Veteran.

He attended Elmhurst High School and attended college in Chicago. He was a member of Northeastern Lodge 210 F&AM in Fremont, the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne and the Mizpah Shrine of Fort Wayne, and the Pokagon Shrine Club. His hobbies included fishing, boating, flying and the lake, and he enjoyed jazz, country music and playing the guitar.

He was born March 16, 1933, in Fort Wayne to Hugh and Edna (Selch) Underwood.

He married Wilma "Billie" (Taner) Lamson Underwood in Fort Wayne on March 14, 1971. She survives in Fremont.

Also surviving are two daughters and one son-in-law, Kathleen and Kurt Westman of Roanoke and Sharleen Torres of Fort Wayne; former wife and mother of Kathleen and Sharleen, Dorothy (Cimini) Williams of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren, Shanon, Kristin, Jade, Lindsay and Ryan; four stepchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; and one stepgreat grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and one brother.

Services will be at noon Monday at Beams Funeral Home, Fremont, with the Rev. Jon Bruney officiating. Burial will be in Jamestown Cemetery, Fremont, with military committal services conducted by members of the Fremont American Legion.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to noon Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children or the Alzheimer's Association.

Condolences may be sent online to beamfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
2008 Auburn, Indiana
April 20

Great dad was admired, loved

Terry Crabill, family man, industrious foundryman

BY VIV ROSSWURM
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AUBURN — A strong, masculine outdoorsman, Terry Crabill broke down and cried tears of joy when he found out he was going to become a grandpa for the first time this summer.

But tragically, it was not to be.

Crabill died in a snowmobile accident Feb. 26. He was 53.

"I am deeply saddened that he will not be here for the birth of my child, and that my child will never know the man who would have been the best grandfather ever," said Terry's daughter, Shannon Scheumann of Auburn.

"I only hope to be as great a father, when the time comes, as my dad was to me," said Stuart Crabill, Terry's son.

Nearly 1,000 people lined up and waited hours at the church to pay their respects and share their memories of Terry Crabill.

Terry was industrious from a young age, but never seemed to want for more. He had a rare gift of being able to truly appreciate what he had and enjoy the wonder of everyday moments with family and friends.

He was born July 3, 1954, to Alva and Bonnie Crabill of Butler. He was their first child and was followed 21 months later by Sally, then Penny and twins Doug and Jeri.

Terry was always concerned and caring when it came to his younger siblings, according to sister, Sally Hoeppner of Berne.

"He always had projects for us to do when he was a boy," Hoeppner remembers. "He would take our wagon and collect potatoes or corn, and then dad would let us sell the food and keep the money."

Sally chokes up when recalling the nickname Terry gave her as a child — "Saffy."

"He always looked after us. If he got a cookie, then he got one for 'Saffy,' too," she said.

In adolescence, during visits to his grandmother's home in Garrett, Terry would scour the city's alleys, collecting soda bottles that he later traded in for two cents each.

That's where he first met Bob Christlieb. The two became buddies and remained close until the day Terry died.

"I had an older brother who used to take the bottles from Terry," Christlieb said. "I told my brother to leave him alone, he was a nice guy."

After graduating — Terry from DeKalb High School in 1973 and Bob from Garrett in 1972 — both went to work at Auburn Foundry in management positions. Terry worked there 35 years until the foundry closed and then became president of Core Ventures in Fort Wayne.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTE

Terry Crabill and his wife, Julie, are seated in front of their son and daughter, Stuart and Shannon, and Shannon's husband, Nick Scheumann, right. Mr. Crabill's life was cut short when he was killed in a snowmobile accident in February.

He also was treasurer of the American Foundry Society, secretary of the Midwest Regional Conference of Foundrymen and a member of the Shifters Car Club and Jaycees. He was active at his church, the County Line Church of God in rural Auburn.

"He was a hard worker," Christlieb said. "He was always doing something."

The two men took a trip to Florida together when Christlieb's father was dying of cancer.

"It was an emotional trip," Christlieb said. "There aren't many friends you can shed tears with, but Terry was one of those friends. He was just a super guy."

Terry loved the outdoors. When he wasn't working for his company, he was working at home or at play. Some of his favorite activities included working on cars or odd jobs around the house and yard, water skiing, boating, camping, snowmobiling, camping and gardening.

It was always safety first, in whatever he did — inside or outside. That's why the family was upset by a report issued by law enforcement officials that said Terry was going at a high rate of speed and was airborne at the time of his snowmobile accident.

That was not like him at all, family members and friends said. Stuart was with his dad at the time of the accident, and said his dad was neither going fast nor airborne, as reports said.

"He was never reckless," Scheumann said. "The handlebars (of the snowmobile) hit him in just the right spot on his chest to cause enough damage to immediately end his life."

Terry and Julie met in high school and fell in love. They married June 18, 1977, and had a storybook relationship. They both loved the rock group Styx and attended its concerts whenever possible.

His kids knew when their dad was home because they could hear the rhythmic thumping of the bass blaring on his SUV's stereo in the driveway. Terry had all the Styx CDs and would stay in the driveway, crank the volume, and listen to the entire song before coming into the house.

The week before her father died, Shannon and her husband, Nick, were having dinner with him, when suddenly Terry asked if they realized that he was surrounded by his favorite things in life. He pointed to his wedding band, indicating his love for Julie, to his shirt with snowmobile graphics, to his Colts coat and his Styx hat and then to the ice cream he was eating. Everyone who

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Carole Davenport

GARRETT — Carole A. Davenport, 69, of Garrett, died Saturday, April 19, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Davenport worked in the Ball Brass factory in Auburn, retiring in 1994.

She was a Garrett resident since 1962.

She was born Aug. 23, 1938, in Paulding, Ohio, to Charles and Cecile (Wieble) Bland. She married Larry K. Davenport on June 23, 1962, in Payne, Ohio. He died on June 25, 1988.

She is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, William Wheeler of Antwerp, Ohio, Larry Jr. and Beth Davenport of Paulding and Brian and Michelle Davenport of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kendra and Mitch Boyd of Garrett and Dawn and Dale Parrot of Quincy, Mich.; a brother, Arnold Bland of Defiance, Ohio; two sisters, Anna Myles and Zada Hunter of Paulding; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by five brothers; two half brothers; four sisters; a

Robert Cooper

AUBURN — Robert "Larry" Cooper, 64, of Auburn, died Friday, April 18, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Cooper was a toolmaker. He most recently owned and operated R & V Tools in Auburn.

He was born March 12, 1944, in Whitley County, to Robert Earl and Elizabeth (Orcutt) Cooper.

He married Virginia Rose Shipe on April 11, 1970, in Auburn. She died Dec. 3, 2006.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald and Tami Britton of New Haven and Donald and Dee Brotton of Fort Wayne; two stepdaughters and a spouse, Ginger and Edward Kennedy of Garrett and Tommie Llinas of Encino, Calif.; his stepmother, Dortha Mae Marsh in Columbia City; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; four brothers and two sisters-in-law, Jerry and Charlene Cooper of Fort Wayne, Roger Cooper of Huntington, Steve and Jeannine Gradeless of Dublin, Ohio, and H. Chuck Cooper of Hilliard, Ohio; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Carolyn and Bill Foster of Reno, Nev., R. Lynn Wood of Fort Wayne and Cindy and Dale Conner of Altamont, ill.

Services will be at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett at a later date. Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is handling arrangements.

Annabell Crowder

KENDALLVILLE — Annabell Crowder, 82, of Kendallville died Saturday, April 19, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Crowder was employed with Messenger Corp. in Auburn until she was 70. She loved to sing, play the piano and spend time with her great-nieces and nephews.

She was born April 27, 1925, in Auburn to William John and Dessie Mae (Whitman) Diehm.

She married Waldo Crowder on Jan. 14, 1961. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sisters, Garcile Brandeberry of Corunna and Ruby McCann of Stroh; 12 nieces and nephews and several great-nieces and great-nephews; a stepdaughter, Mildred Schum of Jasper; and seven stepgrandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, William Diehm; and two sisters, Lucille Dickerhoff and Estell Marks.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville, with the Rev. James A. Caudill officiating. Burial will be at Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home

Condolences may be sent at hitefuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
April 22 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Vicky Strong

TIPTON — Vicky Storms Strong, 61, of Tipton died Sunday, April 20, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Strong worked in medical transcription and was an instructor in medical transcription at Ivy Tech State College. She graduated from Tipton High School in 1964 and attended Ball State University from 1964 through 1968. She was a member of the Kokomo First Church of the Nazarene.

She was born July 10, 1946, in Kokomo to Wayne and Rebecca (Worthington) Graham. Her mother survives in Auburn.

She married Richard Storms on July 9, 1967. He died in 1979.

She married Robert Strong in 1983, and he survives.

Also surviving are two stepchildren, Kristin Prokop of Tipton and Robert Strong Jr. and his wife, Veronica, of Greenwood; four stepgrandchildren, Kate and Andrew Brock of Tipton and Long and Leam Strong of Greenwood; a brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Patti Graham of Schererville; a sister and brother-in-law, Debra and Bill Workman of Auburn; six nieces and nephews; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father and a sister, Patricia Black.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene in Kokomo. Pastor Dave Leeder will officiate. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-8 pm. at Porter Funeral Home in Tipton.

Condolences may be sent at porterfh.com.

David Roark

ANGOLA — David Roark, 77, died Sunday, April 20, 2008, at his home in Angola.

Born in Saltville, Va., to James A. and Eva Griffey Roark, he was in the trucking business for more than 50 years and was a greeter at Meijer's until 2006.

Mr. Roark

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Moose Lodge in Angola, Butler Eagles and Teamsters Local 414. His hobbies included fishing, casino gambling, story-telling and bluegrass music.

He was married to Naomi L. (Lawson) for 49 years. She died in April 1998.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Henry D. and Teresa Roark of Angola and William D. and Janet Roark of Auburn and James A. Roark of Angola; two daughters and a son-in-law, Patricia Clemons of Garrett and Noessa "Lynn" and Dan Johnsonbaugh of Hicksville, Ohio; two sisters, Louise Hayden and Bertha Moore, both of Saltville, Va.; a companion, Wava McDonald of Auburn; and his in-laws, Virginia Jones of Indianapolis, Sonya and Vern Wainscott of Auburn, Ed and Jean Faulkner of Waterloo, Jim and Rhoda Cole of Tennessee and Mildred Lawson of Troutville, Va.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Debra Kay; a granddaughter, Lisa Marie Roark; a great-grandson, Noah William Moody; and two brothers, Sam and Jason Roark.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Wade Kestner will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Hugh Stroh

AUBURN — Hugh G. Stroh, 62, of Auburn died Monday, April 21, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Stroh was a lifetime farmer. He was a 1964 graduate of Auburn High School and attended Manchester College. He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

He was born May 16, 1945, in Auburn to Irvin and Margaret C. (Trovinger) Stroh.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery near Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the funeral home to help defray funeral costs.

James Bolen

KENDALLVILLE — James Bolen, 75, of Kendallville died Tuesday, April 22, 2008, in Kendallville.

Mr. Bolen had worked at the Kendallville Foundry 41 years, retiring in 1999.

He had lived in the area most of his life, coming from Kentucky.

Mr. Bolen

Mr. Bolen enjoyed fishing and hunting.

He was born July 5, 1932, in Garrett, Ky., to Whitley and Lottie (Frazier) Bolen. His father, Whitley Bolen, and his mother, Lottie Hicks, preceded him in death.

Surviving are his wife, Jerra Collins of Kendallville; two daughters, Becky Hogle and Barbara Latta, both of Kendallville; a son and daughter-in-law, James Whitley and Bonnie Bolen of Waterloo; four grandchildren, Tia Latta, Christopher Hale, Tiffany Hale and Machaela Bolen; two stepgrandchildren, Kara Quinn and Tabby Muniz-Quinn; a sister, Violet Chapman of North Carolina; and three brothers, Inn Bolen of Churubusco, Blanton Bolen of Michigan and Ellis Ray Hicks of Kendallville.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Geraldine Bolen; a sister, Oma Hicks; and two brothers, Clifton Bolen and Shirley Boy Hicks.

Services will be at 5 p.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 So. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Raymond Warner of Indian Village Church of God in Auburn officiating.

Calling will be from 3-5 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
April 23 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Amber Mezydlo

GARRETT — Amber Kay Mezydlo, 72, of Westerville, Ohio, and formerly of Garrett, died Sunday afternoon, April 20, 2008, at St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville following an extended illness.

Mrs. Mezydlo had been a contract clerk for the Army Corps of Engineers. Her hobbies included the outdoors, reading and bowling. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett.

She was born Dec. 31, 1935, in Wayne County, Ind., to Everett and Bessie (Roberts) Cramer.

Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Edmund "Ed" Mezydlo, a 23-year Air Force serviceman; two sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Jean Mezydlo of Grand Forks, N.D., and Matt and Shari Mezydlo of Westerville, Ohio; two grandchildren, Jane Marynic and Jesse Mezydlo; and two great-grandchildren, Lilly and Julian Marynic.

Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. The Rev. Father Andrew Nazareth will officiate. Burial will be in the VA National Cemetery at Marion.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to Department of Neurology, 445 Means Hall, 1654 Upham Drive, Columbus, OH 43210.

To send condolences, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Wuanita Scott

ANGOLA — Wuanita Scott, 91, of Angola died Monday, April 21, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Scott was a Realtor.

She was a lifetime member of the Angola Moose Lodge and the Ladies of Fort Wayne Elks Lodge.

She was born Jan. 15, 1917, in Angola to Frank Johnson and Mary Coffman. She was married to Vernell Scott, who preceded her in death.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Phil McKinley and Judith Rains of Fort Wayne.

Graveside services will be today at 2 p.m. at South Scott Cemetery, with the Rev. Jim Hulbert officiating.

Memorials are to the Steuben County Humane Shelter.

Arrangements are by Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

THE EVENING STAR
April 24 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Melvin Anderson

WATERLOO — Melvin Pepple Anderson, 83, of Waterloo died Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 9 p.m. at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Anderson had lived in the DeKalb County area since 1928. He worked as a machinist for the B&O Railroad and drove semis hauling Studebakers in South Bend in the 1950s. He also hauled travel trailers for Fan Coach of LaGrange.

He was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren in rural Corunna and also attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo. His passions were playing the harmonica, fishing and attending ice cream socials.

He was born Sept. 9, 1924, in Muskegon, Mich., to Henry and Elsie (Clayton) Anderson.

His mother died in 1928, and at age 12, he was taken in by foster parents Jerry and Luella Pepple of Garrett.

He attended Garrett High School and enlisted in the Navy Reserves, receiving an honorable discharge after six years of service, including World War II.

He married Helen Pankop-Henderson in 1959. She died May 30, 1980.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James and Barbara Anderson of Waterloo; two grandsons, James Anderson II and Timothy Anderson, both of Waterloo; a foster brother, Harold Pepple of Corunna; two stepdaughters; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a stepson; three sisters, Doris, Emma and Ruth; and a brother, Jim Anderson.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren, 2939 C.R. 15, Corunna. Pastor Paul Stauffer will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren food bank or the Alzheimer's Foundation.

To send a condolence or sign an online register, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
April 25 2008 Auburn, Indiana

John Dear

COLUMBIA CITY — John "Junior" Dear, 81, of Columbia City died at 8:32 a.m. Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at Parkview Whitley Hospital in Columbia City.

Mr. Dear

Mr. Dear had spent most of his life in Whitley County.

He was first employed with Warsaw Chemical Co. in Warsaw, then worked for T & G Excavating and retired from Simmons Excavating in Columbia City in the late 1980s.

Mr. Dear attended school in Columbia City and later in life took night classes studying business at Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne. He entered the United States Army and served during World War II.

He was an avid race car fan and raced stock cars. He loved to fish and hunt rabbits and raccoons.

He was born Jan. 7, 1927, in Kenton, Ohio, to Benjamin and Jennifer (Mahan) Dear. He married Shirley Brockup on Jan. 13, 1953, in Etna Green. She survives in Columbia City.

Also surviving are two sons, Kevin L. Dear of Columbia City and Brian J. Dear of Angola; three daughters, Juni and Brad Krontz of Albion, Connie and Ed Sims of South Whitley and Lisa and Steve Burton of Columbia City; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a brother, Frank and Betty Dear of Columbia City; and two sisters, Dorothy Hauptmeyer of Fort Wayne and Margaret Mumma of Auburn.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Gary Dear; and four sisters, Doris Britton, Evelyn Groves, Lenora Walker and Lois Osgood.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home, 600 Countryside Drive, Columbia City, with Pastor Jason Tash of New Hope Wesleyan Church officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne with military rites by the Whitley County Korean War Veterans of Whitley County.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today and after 10 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Dear Memorial Fund.

Condolences may be sent to demoneygrimes.com.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being republished to list additional survivors.*

David Roark

ANGOLA — David Roark, 77, died Sunday, April 20, 2008, at his home in Angola.

Born in Saltville, Va., to James A. and Eva Griffey Roark, he was in the trucking business for more than 50 years and was a greeter at Meijer's until 2006.

Mr. Roark

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Moose Lodge in Angola, Butler Eagles and Teamsters Local 414. His hobbies included fishing, casino gambling, story-telling and bluegrass music.

He was married to Naomi L. (Lawson) for 49 years. She died in April 1998.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Henry D. and Teresa Roark of Angola and William D. and Janet Roark of Auburn and James A. Roark of Angola; two daughters and a son-in-law, Patricia Clemons of Garrett and Noessa "Lynn" and Dan Johnsonbaugh of Hicksville, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; two sisters, Louise Hayden and Bertha Moore, both of Saltville, Va.; a companion, Wava McDonald of Auburn; and his in-laws, Virginia Jones of Indianapolis, Sonya and Vern Wainscott of Auburn, Ed and Jean Faulkner of Waterloo, Jim and Rhoda Cole of Tennessee and Mildred Lawson of Troutville, Va.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Debra Kay; a granddaughter, Lisa Marie Roark; a great-grandson, Noah William Moody; and two brothers, Sam and Jason Roark.

Services will be today at 11 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Wade Kestner will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 10-11 a.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Larry Kirk

HAMILTON — A memorial gathering for Larry D. Kirk will be Saturday, May 3, from 1-5 p.m. at Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home, 3985 E. Church St., Hamilton.

Mr. Kirk

Mr. Kirk, 69, of Butler, died Thursday, April 3, 2008.

Atlee Miller

LAGRANGE — Atlee B. Miller, 68, of rural LaGrange died at 7:48 a.m. Friday, April 25, 2008, at Parkview LaGrange Hospital of an apparent heart attack.

Mr. Miller had worked at Kuntry Lumber in LaGrange the past 18 years.

He was a member of Old Order Amish Church.

He was born Feb. 3, 1940, in Shipshewana to Ben and Katie (Glick) Miller. He married Edna Byler on Feb. 8, 1962, in LaGrange County. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Rosemary and Lavern Miller of LaGrange; a son, Raymond and Dorothy Miller of LaGrange; 11 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; four sisters, Amanda and Ervin Yoder of Shipshewana, Ada and Samuel Miller of Shipshewana, Lizzie and William Yoder of Shipshewana, and Rosa and Jonah Graber of Grabill; three brothers, Enos and Viola Miller of Shipshewana, Harvey and Rachel Miller of Spencerville, and Chris and Lorene Miller of Shipshewana.

Services will be at 9:30 a.m. Monday at the Samuel Miller residence, 1575 S. C.R. 00EW, LaGrange, with Bishop Marvin Graber, the Rev. Abe Yoder and home ministers officiating. Burial will be in Miller Cemetery, LaGrange.

Calling will be after 2 p.m. Saturday and all day Sunday at the family residence.

Miller-Stewart Funeral Home in Middlebury is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences are to millerstewartfuneralhome.com.

Wilmer Magginnis

AUBURN — Wilmer I. Magginnis, 81, of Auburn, died Thursday, April 24, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Magginnis worked at Dana Corp. in Auburn for 40 years, retiring in 1985. After his retirement, he worked as a security guard at Cooper Engineered Products for 15 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Butler American Legion Post 202, the Auburn Moose Lodge and Garrett Eagles. He attended the Church of Goshen in Goshen.

He was born Sept. 2, 1926, in Avilla to Clarence and Rose (King) Magginnis.

He married Rose H. Wonderly Bauer on July 12, 1969. She preceded him in death on Sept. 4, 2002.

Surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Jeff and Joanna Magginnis of Westfield, Joe and Linda Magginnis of Seymour, Ira Magginnis of Jimmerson Lake and Jerry and Bev Magginnis of Columbus, Ohio; two daughters and a son-in-law, Pamela Shook of Auburn and Carolyn and John Bigger of Edgerton, Ohio; a stepdaughter, Donna Reigsecker of Archbold, Ohio; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a brother, Oliver Magginnis of Phoenix, Ariz.; and four sisters and brothers-in-law, Mae and Darrel Mavis of Coldwater, Mich., Martha and Eldon Zook of LaGrange, Esther and Leroy Nofsinger of Fort Wayne and Janet and John Gall of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Clarence Magginnis Jr., and two sisters, Margaret and Marjorie Magginnis.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Mark Jordan officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Church of Goshen.

Leonard Lakamp

AUBURN — Leonard W. Lakamp, 95, of Auburn died Friday, April 25, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Lakamp

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn. He was a charter member of the Fort Wayne Shoaff Park Lions Club, St. Joe Center Volunteer Fire Department. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and was DeKalb County's oldest World War II veteran.

Mr. Lakamp was part owner of St. Joe Central Feed and Hardware and then worked for Fort Wayne Community Schools Maintenance Department before retiring in 1978.

He was born Sept. 2, 1912, in Ohio County to John F. and Magdelena (Knigga) Lakamp. They preceded him in death. He married Lela S. Selmeyer Feb. 3, 1940, in Ohio County. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Garland and Nola Lakamp of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Marcia Heinert of Howard City, Mich., and Linda and Keith Schrimshaw of Auburn; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren and a brother, Ernest Lakamp of Chisago City, Minn.

He was preceded in death by two sons-in-law, the Rev. David Heinert and George W. Strawbridge; two brothers, Alfred Lakamp and Artie Lakamp; and a sister, Edna Busse.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn with the Rev. Lloyd Bickel officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, and one hour prior to services at the church Tuesday.

Memorials can be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn or worship for shut-ins.

THE EVENING STAR
April 27 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Emerick was proud of family's Steuben heritage

BY MICHAEL MARTURELLO
mikem@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Joan E. (Twitchell) Emerick was proud of her family's heritage and its place in Steuben County history.

Mrs. Emerick, who died Tuesday, was part of one of the pioneer families that settled Steuben County.

"She was just so very, very proud of her heritage. She always went to (Orland's) Vermont Settlement Days," said daughter Beth Cifuentes. "My mother loved the heritage of the Vermont Settlement. She was always updated on it."

Mrs. Emerick

Numerous local histories are in the family's possession. There's barely a stone left unturned in the family genealogy and how it traces to the Orland area and previously New York and much prior to that England.

The Twichell family, as it was spelled in the 1800s, landed in the Vermont Settlement — the Orland area as it was known at the time — in 1835. The first settlers from Vermont arrived in 1834.

Mrs. Emerick's great-great-grandfather, Benjamin S. Twichell, came here to settle with his family. Jonas Twichell Sr., Mrs. Emerick's great-grandfather, was born in New York, right before the family settled in the Orland area. He started a farm near Jackson Prairie Cemetery, south of Orland. He was appointed by the governor to be one of the first Steuben County Commissioners. His son — Jonas Jr., the grandfather of Mrs. Emerick — also served as a Steuben County Commissioner. He served one term.

The family farm remains south of Orland, but as descendant Dean Twitchell said, some of the original buildings are gone. The farm house, though, still is standing.

Mrs. Emerick was a great collector of antiques, but also of historic items about Steuben County.

The family has a collection of local histories, well beyond the two volumes many with which many are most familiar, the Steuben County history books published in 1880 and in 1955.

"She loved barns, loved antiques. That's just a big part of our family's history," Cifuentes said.

ILLUSTRATION CONTRIBUTED

Pictured is an illustration of the Twichell family farm in the Jackson Prairie area of Jackson Township, near Orland, as it was viewed in the 1880 Steuben County history book. Joan Emerick, who died Tuesday, is a descendant of the Twichell – now Twitchell – family, one of the earliest families to settle in Steuben County.

Family members noted that Mrs. Emerick enjoyed Hoosier Hill, north of Angola, particularly when it was snowing outside.

Her father, Robert Twitchell, was a farmer who eventually went to work at the Fawn River State Fish Hatchery. Her mother, Alta, was a homemaker and worked at the local phone company in Orland.

Mrs. Emerick and her husband, Clark "Cork" Emerick, married in 1953 in Orland. The lived in Fort Wayne before returning to Orland in 1955 and then to Angola.

Mrs. Emerick was a stay-at-home mother, raising her four children, Brad, Brent, Beth and Barry.

After the children were in school, Mrs. Emerick went to work at Aro Corp. — Ingersol-Rand — in Angola. Her intent was to only work for a short time, but she ended up there for 29 years until her retirement. She then went to work part-time for Women Infants and Children in Angola for eight years.

Family members recall with fondness how their mother and grandmother liked to keep a clean house, sewing, and doing crafts.

They also recall that she was a fine cook who loved to warm the hearts of family and friends with food.

Mrs. Emerick could put together quite the nice meals, Cifuentes said, but she was known best for her desserts.

"She was a great cook. Everybody always loved her cooking, baked apples, cheese cake. But keep it away from my brother (Barry) because he'll eat it all," Cifuentes said.

Food and family history will be some of the many memories that will carry on now that Mrs. Emerick is gone.

Though she lived much of her life in Angola, Mrs. Emerick returned to her family roots, the Vermont Settlement, Orland, when she was buried Friday at Greenlawn Cemetery.

THE EVENING STAR
April 27 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Thomas Harmes

COLUMBIA CITY — Thomas C. Harmes, 73, formerly of Corunna died Saturday, April 26, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was shop foreman and inspector for 23 years at A-1 Production in Kendallville before retiring in 1994.

Mr. Harmes served in the U.S. Army for two years then the National Guard for three years.

He was a member of the Kendallville American Legion Post 86 and the First Christian Church in Kendallville.

On Sept. 22, 1934, in Corunna, he was born to Theodore "Ted" K. and Anna (Vogtman) Harmes.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Scott D. and Beth Harmes, Columbia City; a daughter, Lori Lynn Harmes and her fiance Todd Scandling, Albion; six grandchildren, Emilee, Nick, Thomas and Colton Harmes, Katelyn Scandling, and Mollie and her husband, Greg Bryant; a great-granddaughter, Ava Bryant; a brother, Donald "Max" Harmes, Waterloo; a sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Ernie Ladd, Fort Wayne; and a sister-in-law, Juanita Harmes, Corunna.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a brother, Richard Harmes, and a sister, Majorie "Janet" Sullivan.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Legion Post 86.

Maxine Gill

WATERLOO — Maxine Gill, 91, died Saturday, April 26, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a homemaker.

On Dec. 4, 1916, she was born in Garrett to Irvin and Lucile (Stoor) Lewis. She married Gerald E. Gill on March 5, 1949, in Fort Wayne. He preceded her in death on May 20, 1995.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, David and Nancy Gill, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Michael Gill, Waterloo; three grandchildren, Annie, Katie and Joey Gill; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Ruth Zimmerman, of Colorado, and Betty and Chuck Laurie, Auburn.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Donna Lewis, and two brothers, Dick and Irvin Lewis.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
April 29 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Jack Hyde

ST. JOE — Jack S. Hyde, 77, of St. Joe died Monday, April 28, 2008, at his home.

Born in Brazil, Ind., he worked for Gartland Foundry in Terre Haute for three years and retired as a security guard with Permar.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Roger Hamilton of St. Joe; two grandchildren and their spouses, Paul and Leah Hamilton of St. Joe and Ted and Lynn Hamilton of Loves Park, Ill.; and two great-grandchildren.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

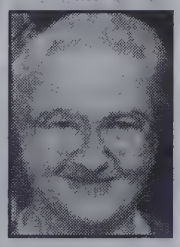
McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

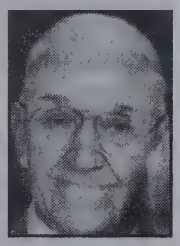
Rebah Schweitzer

HUDSON — Rebah V. Schweitzer, 91, died Monday, April 28, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She was born in Garrett on Aug. 12, 1916, to Charley and Lydia (Haynes) Sherman. She was a 1934 graduate of Garrett High School. She married Willard R. Schweitzer on Nov. 26, 1936. He died Dec. 16, 1997, after 61 years of marriage.

She attended the First Church of Christ in Garrett, and was a member of the Ladies Aid and the Hudson Garden Club. She was very active in missionary work at her church, making comforters for babies and making items for people in Haiti. She also made quilts for all her grandchildren.


Mrs. Schweitzer


Mr. Schweitzer

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Rita K. Nichols of Hudson, and Frances G. and Walter Ray Lockwood Jr. of Marion; four grandchildren and spouses, Brian and Therasa Nichols of Hudson, Greg and Pat Nichols of Paulding, Ohio, Karen Kay and Dan Taylor of Hillard, Ohio, and Mark and Stephanie Lockwood of Gas City; and great-grandchildren, Felicia and Samantha Nichols of Hudson, Ezekiel, Weston, Kirsten and Alyssa Lockwood of Gas City, and Chris and Andrew Taylor of Hillard.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Hazel Playter and Dorothy Kitchen; and a son-in-law, Donald R. Nichols in 2006.

Services are at 1 p.m. Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will follow at Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

Calling begins at 10 a.m. prior to the service.

Memorials are to Lake James Christian Assembly or First Presbyterian Church of Grant County Missions.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

Larry Rowe

CORUNNA — Larry David Rowe, 53, of Corunna died Monday, April 28, 2008, at Parkview Whitley Hospital in Columbia City.

Mr. Rowe worked in construction for the R.L. McCay Company of Columbia City. He served in the U.S. Navy.

He was born in Hudson on April 4, 1955, to Herbert G. and Olabelle (Boyd) Rowe.

He is survived by his mother Olabelle (Rowe) Hannah of Butler; a son, David of Thailand; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Herbert and Margarette Rowe of Wolcottville, Clair and Barbara Rowe of Donna, Texas, and Laurel and Kathy Rowe of Noblesville; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Ann Trammell of New Haven, Bonnie and Shawn Spillian of Michigan, and Eva Crawford of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. at Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

There is no calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.ß

Julianna Budoso

AUBURN — Julianna Budoso, 87, of Auburn died Monday, April 28, 2008, at Golden Years Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Budoso was a homemaker. She was a member of the Auburn Garden Club, a volunteer for the Heimach Senior Activity Center and a gardener.

Mrs. Budoso

She was born June 29, 1920, in Szekeshalom, Hungary, to Csatari and Narai (Borbala) Sandor. They preceded her in death.

She married Michael Budoso on Sept. 20, 1948, in Hillsdale, Mich.. He died April 13, 1965.

Surviving are a daughter, Agnes Budoso of Fort Wayne; and three sisters, Ida Kocsis of Rochester, N.Y., Margaret Vidacs of Palm Bay, Fla., and Barbara Manko of Hungary.

She was preceded in death by two daughters, Rosemary Budoso-Bender and Violet Budoso; and two sisters.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Heimach Senior Activity Center.

James Overbay

GARRETT — James D. Overbay, 67, of Garrett died Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Overbay was a self-employed dry-wall hanger. He retired in 2003.

Mr. Overbay

He was born Dec. 1, 1940, in Middlesboro, Ky., to Rufus and Mayola (Garner) Overbay.

Surviving are his ex-wife, Diane S. Overbay of Garrett; a daughter and son-in-law, Sheila K. and James J. Renner of Kendallville; two sons and daughters-in-law, James Matthew and Suzanne Overbay of Garrett and Samuel Lee and Erica Overbay of Garrett; six grandchildren; five brothers and three sisters-in-law, Avory and Sherry Overbay of New Haven, Rufus and Phyllis Overbay of Fort Wayne, and Walt Overbay, Kenneth Overbay and Jackie and Sheila Overbay, all of Middlesboro, Ky.; and six sisters and four brothers-in-law, Lois and Joe Shumate, Sylvia Coatney and Effie Overbay, all of Middlesboro, Ky., Arlene and James Teague of LaVergne, Tenn., and Prudy and Gary Meadows and Tammy and Gary Martin, all of Berea, Ky.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Covington Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Denny Feasby of New Hope Baptist Church in Fort Wayne officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be today from 5-7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Friday, one hour prior to the services, at Covington Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home.

Memorials are to New Hope Baptist Church in Fort Wayne.

Condolences may be sent at thomasfuneralhome.org.

Ruth Hartwig

AUBURN — Ruth A. Hartwig, 83, formerly of Antwerp, Ohio, died Monday, April 28, 2008, at 6:45 p.m. at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Hartwig worked at Zellers for 22 years and was a telephone operator for Paulding Telephone Co. and GM Powertrain in Defiance, Ohio. She was a former member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Antwerp.

She was born Sept. 13, 1924, in Blue Creek Township, Paulding, Ohio, to Walter and Clara (Peters) Baker.

She married Paul Hartwig in 1946. He died in 1969.

Surviving are a brother, Ralph Baker of Hamilton; a niece, Marilyn Bodiker of Waterloo; and a nephew, Ron Baker of Edon, Ohio.

Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne, Ohio, will handle arrangements. Private burial will be at Live Oak Cemetery in Paulding, Ohio.

Condolences may be sent to dooleyfuneralhome.com.

David Wofford

ASHLEY — David R. Wofford, 51, of Ashley died Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Wofford worked as a portfolio manager for Aro Fluid Products/Ingersoll-Rand of Bryan, Ohio, for more than 30 years. He served in the U.S. Navy as a mechanic for seven years. He bowled and worked on old cars.

He was born Nov. 20 1956, in Covina, Calif., to David "Clifford" and Levena (London) Wofford. His father survives in Kingman, Ariz.

He married Diane Fike on Feb. 14, 1997, in Auburn. She survives in Ashley.

Also surviving are four daughters and two sons-in-law, Melanie and Andrea DiTommaso of Fort Wayne, Laura Wofford of Edgerton, Ohio, Angela Shibler of Fort Wayne and Kristy and Dan Helmkamp of Kendallville; one son, Blaine Thacker of Hicksville, Ohio; eight grandchildren; one sister and brother-in-law, Fay and Carle Basenberg of Marino Valley, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and one sister, Kathy Collins.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. James McPeak will officiate. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery in rural Corunna, with military graveside services by the Orland post of the American Legion.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children, Locks of Love or the Indiana University School of Medicine Multiple Myeloma Department.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted to correct an error.*

Rebah Schweitzer

HUDSON — Rebah V. Schweitzer, 91, died Monday, April 28, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She was born in Garrett on Aug. 12, 1916, to Charley and Lydia (Haynes) Sherman. She was a 1934 graduate of Garrett High School. She married Willard R. Schweitzer on Nov. 26, 1936. He died Dec. 16, 1997, after 61 years of marriage.

Mrs. Schweitzer

Mr. Schweitzer

She attended the First Church of Christ in Garrett, and was a member of the Ladies Aid and the Hudson Garden Club. She was very active in missionary work at her church, making comforters for babies and making items for people in Haiti. She also made quilts for all her grandchildren.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Rita K. Nichols of Hudson, and Frances G. and Walter Ray Lockwood Jr. of Marion; four grandchildren and spouses, Brian and Theresa Nichols of Hudson, Greg and Pat Nichols of Paulding, Ohio, Karen Kay and Dan Taylor of Hillard, Ohio, and Mark and Stephanie Lockwood of Gas City; and great-grandchildren, Felicia and Samantha Nichols of Hudson, Ezekiel, Weston, Kirsten and Alyssa Lockwood of Gas City, and Chris and Andrew Taylor of Hillard.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Hazel Playter and Dorothy Kitchen; and a son-in-law, Donald R. Nichols in 2006.

Services are at 1 p.m. Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will follow at Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

Calling begins at 10 a.m. prior to the service.

Memorials are to Lake James Christian Assembly or First Presbyterian Church of Grant County Missions.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

Gerald Sheefel

FORT WAYNE — Gerald O. "Curly" Sheefel, 98, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, April 29, 2008, in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Sheefel had worked at New Haven Wire and Cable before retiring.

He was a member of the Woodview Church of God.

He was born in Payne, Ohio, on June 11, 1909, to Charles O. and Elnora (Buerkle) Sheefel. He was married to Mildred Lakey Sheefel, as well as Helen Clay Richards. Both preceded him in death.

He is survived by three sons, David and Gerald of Fort Wayne, and Robert of Granite City, Calif.; three daughters, Marjorie Dressler, Carolyn Shoemaker and Pat Stelter, all of Fort Wayne; a stepdaughter, Donna Jean Klammer of Auburn; 31 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Elnora Dogue.

Services are at 2 p.m. Friday at D.O. McComb and

Earl Stedman

BEDFORD — Earl Robert Stedman, 87, of Bedford died Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at 6:35 p.m. at the Stonebridge Health Campus in Bedford.

Mr. Stedman had worked at Midwest Dairy and later for Messenger Corp. where he retired as a warehouse foreman. He was a graduate of Watervliet High School in 1940. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II in the battle of Midway and was on the Yorktown aircraft carrier when it sank. He was a member of Gillen Post No. 33 of the American Legion.

He was born Sept. 15, 1920, in Benton Harbor, Mich., to Clarence and Flora (Wigent) Stedman.

He married June Cupp on June 18, 1949, and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Candace and Christine Stedman, both of Bedford.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Elmwood Chapel of Day & Carter Mortuary, 1133 Lincoln Ave., Bedford. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn

Calling will be Friday from 3:30-8 p.m. and Saturday from noon-1 p.m. at Day & Carter Mortuary.

To sign a guest book and light a candle in memory, visit daycarter.com.

THE EVENING STAR
May 2008 Auburn, Indiana
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THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted to correct an error.*

Larry Rowe

CORUNNA — Larry David Rowe, 53, of Corunna died Monday, April 28, 2008, at Parkview Whitley Hospital in Columbia City.

Mr. Rowe worked in construction for the R.L. McCay Company of Columbia City. He served in the U.S. Navy.

He was born in Hudson on April 4, 1955, to Herbert G. and Olabelle (Boyd) Rowe.

He is survived by his mother Olabelle (Rowe) Hanna of Butler; a son, David of Thailand; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Herbert and Margarette Rowe of Wolcottville, Clair and Barbara Rowe of Donna, Texas, and Laurel and Kathy Rowe of Noblesville; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Ann Trammell of New Haven, Bonnie and Shawn Spillian of Michigan, and Eva Crawford of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. at Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

There is no calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct information provided by the funeral home.*

Rebah Schweitzer

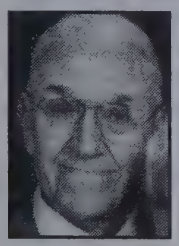
HUDSON — Rebah V. Schweitzer, 91, died Monday, April 28, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

She was born in Garrett on Aug. 12, 1916, to Charley and Lydia (Haynes) Sherman. She was a 1934 graduate of Garrett High School. She married Willard R. Schweitzer on Nov. 26, 1936. He died Dec. 16, 1997, after 61 years of marriage.

She attended the First Church of Christ in Garrett, and was a member of the Ladies Aid and the Hudson Garden Club. She was very active in missionary work at her church, making comforters for babies and making items for people in Haiti. She also made quilts for all her grandchildren.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Rita K. Nichols of Hudson, and Frances G. and Walter Ray Lockwood Jr. of Marion; four grandchildren and spouses, Brian and Teresa Nichols of Hudson, Greg and Pat Nichols of Paulding, Ohio, Karen Kay and Dan Taylor of Hilliard, Ohio, and Mark and Stephanie Lockwood of Gas City; and great-grandchildren, Felicia and Samantha Nichols of Hudson, Ezekiel, Weston, Kirsten and Alyssa Lockwood of Gas City, and Chris and Andrew Taylor of Hilliard.

Mrs. Schweitzer


Mr. Schweitzer

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Hazel Playter and Dorothy Kitchen; and a son-in-law, Donald R. Nichols in 2006.

Services are at 1 p.m. Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Burial will follow at Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

Calling begins at 10 a.m. prior to the service.

Memorials are to Lake James Christian Assembly or First Presbyterian Church of Grant County Missions.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

Lillian Rider

LAGRANGE — Lillian M. "Susie" Rider, 57, of LaGrange died at 5 a.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Rider had worked at Wal-Mart, as a nurses' aide, as a bartender and as a social worker for LaGrange County.

Mrs. Rider

She was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in LaGrange. She was a former member of the Eagles, Moose and American Legion auxiliaries.

She was born March 25, 1951, in Garrett to Everett and Minnie (Peters) Cook. She was raised by Ralph "Bud" and Mildred Harris. Mr. Harris is deceased and Mrs. Harris survives in LaGrange.

She married Marshall Rider in August 1993 in Sturgis, Mich. He preceded her in death.

Also surviving are two sons, Ronald Cook of Joplin, Mo., and Shawn Dague and Amy Smith of Sturgis, Mich.; two sisters, Ruby Souers and Jeanette Blair, both of LaGrange; a sister-in-law, Alice Cook of Kendallville; two grandchildren, Devin Dague and Joshua Dague, both of Sturgis; a niece, Nicole Blain of Burr Oak, Mich.; and five nephews, Jeff and Jonathan Souers, and Ernie, Shawn and Steve Cook.

She was also preceded in death by her father, Ralph "Bud" Harris; three brothers, William, David and Earl Cook Jr.; and a sister, Delores Smith Bolander.

Services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with Deacon George Douglas officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent online to carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

THE EVENING STAR
May 2 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Deanna DePew

GARRETT — Deanna L. DePew, 46, of Garrett died Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at 10:46 p.m. at Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana in Fort Wayne.

Ms. DePew worked on the assembly line at Magnavox in Garrett for 18 years.

Ms. DePew

She was born Oct. 7, 1961, in Garrett to Melvin R. and Margie L. (Cooper) DeGrasse. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a daughter, Hilary DePew of Garrett; a son, Logan DePew of Garrett; her ex-husband, Skip DePew of Corunna; four stepsons, David DePew of Corunna, Randy DePew of Ashley, Ed DePew of Michigan and Eric DePew of Ligonier; a sister, Judy Gordon of Fort Wayne; four brothers, Ron DeGrasse of Houston, Texas, Don DeGrasse of Houston, Paul DeGrasse of Clinton, N.C., and Richard DeGrasse of Angola; four nieces; and four great-nephews.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Jeffery C. House will officiate. Burial will be at a later date in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Sunday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Hilary and Logan DePew at Garrett State Bank.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at thomasfuneralhome.org.

Charles Welch

AUBURN — Charles Welch, 92, of Auburn died Thursday, May 1, 2008, at St. Vincent Hospice in Indianapolis.

Mr. Welch

Mr. Welch worked in data processing at Messenger Corp. for 43 years, retiring in 1978. He was a corporal in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

He was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 97 in Auburn, the Auburn Elks Lodge and the Auburn Moose Lodge.

An accomplished golfer, he was a member of Bridgewater Golf Course West and the former Greenhurst Country Club, where he was an eight-time club champion.

He was born Nov. 7, 1915, in Auburn to Robert D. and Estella (Herrick) Welch.

He married Mary L. Imus on June 18, 1948, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Lynn L. and Michael Davis of Carmel; two grandsons, Micah Davis of Westfield and his wife, Misty, and Jacob Davis of Indianapolis; and a great-grandson, Max Davis.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Edward, Frank and Albert Welch; and two sisters, Blanche Baker and Ethel Reasoner.

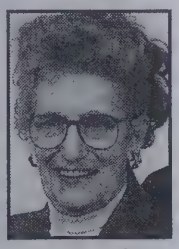
Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Wayne St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn, with military honors conducted by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 4-7 p.m. and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Auburn First United Methodist Church.

Phyllis J. Custer-Cole

GARRETT — Phyllis J. Custer-Cole, 80, of Garrett, died Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 11:08 p.m. at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mrs. Custer-Cole

She worked in packaging at Stanadyne in Garrett for 12 years, retiring on July 1, 1978. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett, the Garrett Eagles Auxiliary and the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary. She played cards at the Heimach Senior Center in Auburn.

She was born June 25, 1927, in Auburn to Walter W. and Lela (Houghton) Foltz.

She married Junior W. Custer on Feb. 7, 1944, in Fort Wayne. He died Aug. 24, 1987.

She married Franklin Cole on Aug. 22, 1992, in Garrett. He died Oct. 17, 2006.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jerry W. and Lois Custer of Garrett; three stepsons and their spouses, James L. and Diana Cole of Bluffton, Joseph A. and Bonnie Cole of Garrett and John A. and Pam Cole of Springboro, Ohio; a stepdaughter and her husband, Joanne M. and Dean Betts of Albion; three grandchildren and their spouses, Tara and Thomas Smurr of Garrett, Tim and Tanya Custer of Garrett and Ted W. and Diane Custer of Garrett; numerous stepgrandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; numerous stepgreat-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger D. and Betty Clear of New Haven and Larry W. and Nila Clear of Waterloo; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Eleanor and Michael Prokopakis of Santa Clara, Calif., and Marilyn and Herm Fee of Montpelier, Ohio.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Garrett with Pastor David Mix officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 2-7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Tuesday from 9 - 10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Community Kitchen.

To send a condolence or sign the online register book, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Wanda Maxton

ANGOLA — Wanda Maxton, 99, of Angola died Thursday, May 1, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mrs. Maxton

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Maxton was a member of Pleasant View Christian Church in Angola, Friendly Circle at the church, 50-year member and past Worthy Matron of Angola Chapter No. 78 Order of Eastern Star and Jolly Dozen.

She was born Nov. 14, 1908, in DeKalb County to Jesse B. and Lora (Nickols) McClellan. She married Lewis G. Maxton on July 7, 1934. He preceded her in death Jan. 15, 1985.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard and Karen Maxton of Angola and L. Gene and Vicki Maxton of Anderson, N.C.; one daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Terry Oster of Angola; 10 grandchildren, Shelia and Mike Henderson, Tawnya Gurtner, Kim Bordner, Renee Maxton, Larry G. Maxton, Ann Maxton, Josh Maxton, Denis and Melinda Oster, Darryl and Elizabeth Oster and David and Roberta Oster; four stepgrandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and one sister, Marie Douglas of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her husband; one great-grandson, Tony Maxton; two brothers, Glen McClellan and Lloyd McClellan; and two sisters, Ivol Slentz and Ann McClellan.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with the Rev. Alvin Covell officiating. Burial will be in South Scott Cemetery in Steuben County.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. with an Eastern Star Services at 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
May 3 2008

Michael Kurtz

BOKEELIA, Fla. — Michael Allen Kurtz, 51, of Bokeelia, Fla., died Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at the Bay Pine Veterans Administration facility in Bay Pines, Fla.

Mr. Kurtz served his country in the military from 1973 to 1975 and went on to receive an associate's degree and became one of the top transmission builders in the country.

He was born June 30, 1956, in Auburn and had lived in Bokeelia for the past four years.

He was baptized in the Methodist Church and was an active member. His hobby was fishing.

Surviving are his parents, Albert and Violet Kurtz of Bokeelia; a brother, Calvin Kurtz of Bokeelia; a sister, Christine Smithers of Elkton, Fla.; two daughters, Nina Lucier of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and Sandra Kurtz of Angola; a granddaughter, Brooklyn Sicard of Angola; and a lifelong friend, Melvin Handshoe.

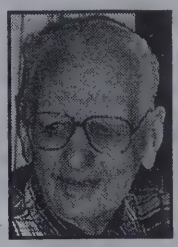
A private military service for family and friends will take place May 30 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post on Pine Island, Fla.

Man loved family, history, tinkering

BY LINDSAY WINSLOW BROWN
lindsayb@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — His nieces describe George Capen as an intelligent man who liked to tinker and paid close attention to details.

Mr. Capen died March 19 at the age of 98. Despite his age and failing eyesight, he remained active until the last days of his life at Smith Farms Manor.



Mr. Capen

"He was a very, very intelligent man. You talked to him, and it was like walking through a library," said the Rev. Dale Williams of Auburn First United Methodist Church, who often visited George. "He was well read and very involved. I don't think his sense of curiosity ever left."

George was an engineer by trade, working at Magnavox Corp. in Fort Wayne for 31 years and retiring in 1975. While he was at Magnavox, his engineering team developed the first television set.

He had such an interest in his work that he continued it at home. He collected radios and tinkered with them in a shop at his home.

While at Magnavox, George worked in a classified area developing sonobuoys, used as submarine-detection devices.

"He used to fly off the coast of Florida and drop these into the ocean. He would tell the stories and say he was in an 'old, rickety plane.' He didn't know if they would make it back," said George's niece, Judith "Judy" Lantz of Auburn.

"One of the things he was heavily involved with was an anti-submarine device. It literally saved hundreds and hundreds of lives," Williams said.

Prior to his work with Magnavox, in 1942, George was a radio mechanic in the U.S. Signal Corps, serving in Panama.

That same year, George married Dorothy L. Tomer on Nov. 12. She died in 2003.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

George Capen sits with his brothers in this picture from the 1940s. Mr. Capen died March 19 at the age of 98.

George and his wife traveled to Florida every year. In their younger years, according to his niece, Jean Vose of Auburn, they tended an apple orchard on North Indiana Avenue in Auburn.

"They made cider," Jean said. "Aunt DoDo polished every apple that came out of that orchard. ... They didn't do things halfway."

George even went to Utah to trace his family's genealogy back to 1592.

"You wouldn't believe the clippings I have. ... They're so old. It's unbelievable. He has paper clippings of family members' obituaries in here," said Jean, who indicated he wrote everything by hand and neatly compiled it into an album.

George was born in Auburn Feb. 3, 1910, to Robert and Anna Maud (Baird) Capen. After he got married, he lived next door to his parents on South Indiana Avenue.

"For me, Uncle George and Aunt DoDo were a real important part of my life because my folks divorced, and my dad got custody of us," Jean said. "For not having any kids, they were really very nice to their nieces and nephews."

Jean said her uncle told her about the time he baby-sat her.

"I went to the restroom, and I fell asleep while I was on the potty. .. He just held my head while I slept," said Jean, who started laughing while recalling the story. "He didn't have any kids, but he was good to us."

George often went to dinners and holidays with the family. They were usually at his mother's house. On Christmas, George's mother would hire a maid to wash all the dishes so she could spend time with the family.

George always lived close to family. While living on Indiana Avenue, he built a duplex on Van Buren Street. He and his wife lived on one side of the duplex, and his in-laws lived on the other.

He also owned Capen Apartments — the current site of Shelter Ministries — on Seventh Street for many years. Rollie Muhn built the apartments in 1922 for George's dad, who had a sign shop in the back of building. He painted stripes on buggies and put gold leaf letters on the doors of the courthouse.

George's dad died when George was only a teenager, leaving his mother widowed with four boys to raise. He had another brother who died when he was 14 months old. All his brothers preceded him in death.

"I used to tease him and say, 'Uncle George, you've lived the longest of all your brothers, and you're the only one that never had any kids. Could that be a reason?'"

Richard L. Thiel

FORT WAYNE — Richard L. "Rick" Thiel, 56, of Fort Wayne, died at 5:07 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2008, at the family residence in Eel River Township. He had been in declining health since October.

Mr. Thiel was employed as a locomotive engineer for Norfolk & Southern Railroad for 37 years. He was a member of St. Joseph United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne. He enjoyed Indiana University basketball, Indianapolis Colts football and spending time with his family.

He was born in Fort Wayne on July 31, 1951, a son of Lewis and Valera (Lohman) Thiel, both of whom are deceased. He spent his formative years in Fort Wayne, and graduated from Northside High School in 1969.

He married Betty J. "BJ" Dazey in Huntertown on Oct. 13, 1979. She survives in Fort Wayne.

In addition to his wife, survivors include a son, Eric Thiel of Kingman, Ariz; a daughter and son-in-law, Erin and Rob Niman of Fort Wayne; two sisters, a son-in-law and a life partner, Sara and Dick Conrow of Churubusco and Becky Shedd and Gwen Ostrander of LaOtto; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Dan and Mary Thiel of Garrett, Jon and Margaret Thiel of Auburn, and Dave and Barbara Thiel of Garrett; four grandchildren, Robby Niman, Wesley Niman, Braylon J. Niman and Parker Lynn Niman; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a. m. at the St. Joseph United Methodist Church, 6004 Reed Road, with Pastor Russ Abel officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Allen County.

Calling is Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco or Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health & Hospice.

Condolences may be sent to sheetsandchilds.net.

Alice Gael

GARRETT — Alice L. Gael, 82, of Ruskin, Fla., and formerly of Garrett died Saturday, May 3, 2008, at 8:07 a.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was employed in the office of Stanadyne in Garrett until retiring in 1982. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She was born in Stroh on Aug. 2, 1925, to Guy and Sara (Davis) Call and they preceded her in death. She married Lloyd J. Gael on June 30, 1973, in South Milford and he survives.

Other survivors include a daughter, Virginia Mueller of Sherwood, Mich.; a stepson and stepdaughter-in-law, John C. and Judy Gael of Auburn; three stepdaughters and two stepsons-in-law, Judy Winchester of Columbia City, Karen and Bill Howard of Albion, and Mary and Ron Culbertson of Auburn; two sisters, Dorothy Armasted of Florida and Christine Eddins of Birmingham, Ala.; five grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Florence Greene; one grandchild; two brothers; and four sisters.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

Arrangements are by Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Wilma Bontrager

WOLCOTTVILLE — Wilma Mabel (Miller) Bontrager, 84, of Wolcottville died at 12:55 a.m. today, Monday, May 5, 2008, at the home of her son, Orla Bontrager.

Mrs. Bontrager was a homemaker and a member of the Old Order Amish Church.

A lifetime area resident, she was born Jan. 22, 1924, in LaGrange County to Henry and Susie (Schrock) Miller. She married Amos W. Bontrager on Feb. 15, 1945. They had been married for 56 years when he preceded her in death.

Surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Mary and Harley Schlabach of Arthur, Ill., Martha and Norman Hochstetler of Charlotte, Mich., Orpha and Levi Eash of Wawaka and Wilma and Paul Lambright of Wolcottville; five sons and daughters-in-law, Marvin and Betty Bontrager of Wolcottville, Orla and Sadie Bontrager of Rome City, William and Barbara Bontrager of Topeka, Wilbur and Norma Jean Bontrager of Dalton, Wis., and Vernon and Sara Sue Bontrager of Markesan, Wis.; 72 grandchildren; and 131 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, four sisters and one grandson.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the home of her son, Marvin Bontrager, 1110 W. C.R. 700S, Wolcottville. Burial will be in Clear Spring Cemetery.

Calling will be today after 3 p.m. and all day Tuesday at the home of Marvin Mast, 1055 W. C.R. 700S, Wolcottville, and after 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Marvin Bontrager residence.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel.

Condolences may be sent to the family at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

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THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted with a correction.*

Alice Gael

GARRETT — Alice L. Gael, 82, of Ruskin, Fla., and formerly of Garrett died Saturday, May 3, 2008, at 8:07 a.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Gael

She was employed in the office of Stanadyne in Garrett until retiring in 1982. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She was born in Stroh on Aug. 2, 1925, to Guy and Sara (Davis) Call.

She married Lloyd J. Gael on June 30, 1973, in South Milford and he survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Virginia Mueller of Sherwood, Mich.; a stepson and stepdaughter-in-law, John C. and Jennie Gael of Auburn; three stepdaughters and two stepsons-in-law, Judy Winchester of Columbia City, Karen and Bill Howard of Albion, and Mary and Ron Culbertson of Auburn; two sisters, Dorothy Armasted of Florida and Christine Eddins of Birmingham, Ala.; five grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Florence Greene; one grandchild; two brothers; and four sisters.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

Lewis McAllister

GARRETT — Lewis O. McAllister, 65, of Garrett, and formerly of Kinderhook, Mich., died Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at Hickory Creek at Kendallville Nursing Home.

Mr. McAllister

Mr. McAllister had been a Garrett resident for the past 17 years. He worked as a trimmer at Citation in Butler until his retirement March 15, 2005. He was an Army medic during the Vietnam War.

He was born Oct. 5, 1942, in Jackson, Mich., to Orum and Vida (Brooks) McAllister.

He married Monica A. Pastor on April 14, 1995, in Angola. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a daughter, Heather McAllister of Michigan, and a brother, Joe McAllister of Kinderhook, Mich.

Services will be Saturday at 7 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Tom Novy officiating. A military committal service will be conducted by the Garrett posts of the American Legion and VFW. Burial will be in Knauss Cemetery in Kinderhook at a later date.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Hickory Creek at Kendallville Nursing Home.

To send a condolence or sign a guestbook, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Robert Riddle

HOLIDAY, Fla. — Robert W. Riddle Jr., 76, of Holiday, Fla., died Thursday, May 1, 2008, in Holiday.

Mr. Riddle was a former Auburn resident. His parents were Robert W. Riddle Sr. and Mardelle Williams Riddle.

He is survived by four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Robert Heller

PLEASANT LAKE — Robert Otto Heller, 86, of Pleasant Lake died Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation in Angola.

Mr. Heller was a farmer in Corunna until 1964. He then worked as a meat manager for IGA in Garrett and Kroger, Owens and Super Value in Auburn.

He was a member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Garrett, as well as the Eagles, the Elks and the Moose, also of Garrett.

He was born on April 23, 1922, in Nebraska to Otto and Charlotte (Ziebelle) Heller. His wife, Valda (Growcock) Heller, died in 2001.

He is survived by four daughters and two sons-in-law, Karen and Dan Grogg, Kathy Jarnigan, and Cindy Lechleidner, all of Auburn, and Janice and Ronnie Speeks of Melbourne, Fla.; two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard and Cindy Heller of Hudson and Larry and Linda Heller of Shelbyville; and two stepsons and a spouse, Eric and Carol Bickel of Lake Gage and Raymond Bickel of Seaside, Calif.; 24 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandchild.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Dennis Heller, in 1983, and a stepson, Ronald Bickel, in 2005.

There will be no calling or services. Burial will be at a later date.

Memorials are to Cameron Hospice and Home Care in Angola or Alliance Industries in Garrett.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge or arrangements.

Charles O'Brien

VEEDERSBURG — Charles Eugene O'Brien, 72, of Veedersburg and formerly of Auburn, died Wednesday, May 7, 2008, at his home.

Mr. O'Brien worked as a truck driver and retired from Shaffer Trucking in Crawfordsville. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Korea from Aug. 12, 1952, to Sept. 16, 1954. He was a former member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn. He was a strong supporter of the Veterans Administration and the VA hospitals.

He was born June 15, 1935, in Bryan, Ohio, to Clarence William O'Brien and Beatrice Lucille (Livergood) Link.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Michael David (O'Brien) Link, Mark Kevin and Brenda O'Brien and Richard Lyle (O'Brien) and Lola McClellan; a daughter, Dawn Joyce (O'Brien/McClellan) Hoyer; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two nieces, Sheryl Ann Thrush and Karen Sue Patton; one nephew, Jeffrey Alan Stelzer; a companion, Kathleen Walker; two stepdaughters, Jackie Holt and Linda Beckelhymer; two stepsons, Keith Shelley and his wife, Teresa, and Steve Shelley; 12 stepgrandchildren; and 18 stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Herschel Etra Link; and one sister, Marilyn Joyce Stelzer.

Services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn. Military graveside services will be conducted by the U.S. Air Force and American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be Saturday from 1-3 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the family.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct a reporter's errors.*

Robert Heller

PLEASANT LAKE — Robert Otto Heller, 86, of Pleasant Lake died Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation in Angola.

Mr. Heller was a farmer in Corunna until 1964. He then worked as a meat manager for IGA in Garrett and Kroger, Owens and Super Value in Auburn.

He was a member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Garrett, as well as the Eagles, the Elks and the Moose, also of Garrett.

He was born on April 23, 1922, in Nebraska to Otto and Charlotte (Ziebelle) Heller. His wife, Valda (Growcock) Heller, died in 2001.

He is survived by four daughters and two sons-in-law, Karen and Don Grogg, Kathy Jarnigan, and Cindy Lechleidner, all of Auburn, and Janice and Ronnie Speeks of Melbourne, Fla.; two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard and Cindy Heller of Hudson and Larry and Linda Heller of Shelbyville; and two stepsons and a spouse, Eric and Carol Bickel of Lake Gage and Raymond Bickel of Seaside, Calif.; 24 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Dennis Heller, in 1983, and a stepson, Ronald Bickel, in 2005.

There will be no calling or services. Burial will be at a later date.

Memorials are to Cameron Hospice and Home Care in Angola or Alliance Industries in Garrett.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge or arrangements.

Lois Shoener

AUBURN — Lois Shoener, 88, of Auburn and formerly of Garrett died Thursday, May 8, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Shoener was an admissions assistant at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne for 14 years, retiring in 1992.

Mrs. Shoener

She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church and a past president of the United Methodist Women. She lived in Garrett for 58 years before moving to Auburn in 2004.

She was born March 10, 1920, in Noble County to Frank E. and Viola E. (Richards) Lehner.

She married Arthur C. Shoener on Nov. 14, 1942, in Kendallville. He died Dec. 10, 1975.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Art and Sharon Shoener of Kansas City, Mo., and Frank and Sandra Shoener of Fort Wayne; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kay and Kevin Chicoine of Boise, Idaho, and Christine and Tony Steinmetz of Lodi, Calif.; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two nieces, Pam Baker of Rome City and Roberta Fredericks of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Harold and Robert Lehner, and a sister, Greta Gehring.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church.

To send condolences or sign the online guestbook, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Harold Shellenberger

GARRETT — Harold H. Shellenberger, 82, of Garrett died Thursday, May 8, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Shellenberger owned and drove a milk route for Pet Milk Co. from 1949-63. He then became a pilot, flying for Consolidated Airways and Executive Aviation out of Baer Field, and worked part time for a crew for Magnavox. He was a World War II Marine veteran, and was awarded the Purple Heart.

He was a member and a past deacon and elder of First Church of Christ in Garrett. He was a member of the Quiet Birdmen in Fort Wayne, Garrett American Legion Post No. 178, Garrett Lions Club and volunteered at the WWII Victory Museum in Auburn. He held a business jet and ATR rating, and was a qualified instrument and ground school instructor.

He was born July 8, 1925, in Fort Wayne to Charles Homer and Bessie (Cramer) Shellenberger. He married Harriet (Gulick) Vise on May 1, 1946, in Chicago. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Carole E. Vise Shellenberger and Timothy Shine of Houston; five grandchildren and four spouses, Jeffrey and Angela Grupp of Dallas, Michael and Tanya Grupp of Garland of Texas, Linda and Ronnie Wells and Bradley Grupp, all of Houston, and Christopher and Tonya Grupp of St. Louis, Mich.; eight great-grandchildren, Brian Grupp, Ashley Grupp, Tiffany Grupp, Michael Grupp, Brandon Grupp, Samantha Wells, Tiffany Grupp and Christopher Grupp; and five great-great grandchildren. He also had a half-sister, Edna.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. at First Church of Christ in Garrett, with the Rev. Jim Lilley officiating. Burial will be in Embry Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Memorials are to the church.

THE EVENING STAR
May 11 2008 Auburn, Indiana

'Good ol' boy' valued his new family above all

BY TIFFANY YODER
tiffanyy@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Shannon Bell's voice may break when she speaks of her late husband, Timothy, but she also will smile and laugh when she reminisces over fonder memories.

She recalls her husband as "a good ol' boy," who enjoyed hunting, fishing, bonfires and anything else involving the outdoors.

"He was a typical guy," she said. "It was hard to get him inside most of the time."

Bell, 29, died Tuesday afternoon in a car accident on C.R. 50W while he was traveling south to Angola. His car was struck by a semi truck where C.R. 50W becomes S.R. 127, near the Pokagon State Park entrance ramp for northbound I-69.

Shannon, 26, said her husband was bringing a high chair for their son, Lucas, to her mother's home in Angola where the family was temporarily staying. When he never appeared at the house, his mother-in-law, Diana Graham, got in her car to look for him. She came upon the scene of his accident.

"That was the hardest thing in my life," Graham said. She then had to call Shannon, who had been trying to call her and find out where Bell had been.

"When she didn't answer, I knew," Shannon said. "I knew something was wrong."

She called the accident "senseless," and said the one good that could come of it would be if it could prevent another accident happening at the intersection.

"I hope with this that they'll actually think about doing that, because it won't be too long before someone else is hurt like this," she said.

Tim and Shannon had met a few years ago while she was working at a Shell gas station. Together seven years, the couple's fifth wedding anniversary would have been in November.

She described her husband as a hopeless romantic. To celebrate being together one month, Tim took Shannon to a Japanese restaurant in Fort Wayne, then on an old-fashioned carriage ride around Fort Wayne to look at Christmas lights. His proposal to her, Shannon said, was "every girl's fantasy." He had proposed on a Florida beach at sunset while the two were on vacation.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Timothy Bell holds his son, Lucas, in a family photo. Family members said he valued his family above all. Bell died Tuesday in a car accident.

"He loved his family dearly," said Bell's friend, Judy Thompson. "He loved them more than anything."

His devotion to his role as a father started from the moment his son was born. Shannon said the only time he left her side while she was in labor was to get something to eat other than hospital food. After Lucas was born, Shannon said Tim was patient enough to let her be the first to hold him, though she could tell he could hardly wait.

"You could tell he was just itching to hold his baby boy," she said.

The father-son bond proved strong over the last seven months, Shannon said. Bell told friend Chris Thompson that though Lucas valued his mother's attention most at this point, that would change later.

"He said, 'He's a mama's boy now but he'll be a daddy's boy later,'" Thompson said. Shannon said she could see that happening.

"Lucas adored his father," she said. She told of how Tim would look at their son and Lucas would immediately break into a smile. "They just had a connection."

The connection shared between Bell and his son was helped by a brief period where he became a stay-at-home father. While in between jobs at Meridian Automotive and RR Donnelly, Bell had the opportunity for a brief time to spend his days at home with Lucas.

"That was a priceless moment," Shannon said.

Despite his love for being outdoors, devotion for work and an interest in photography, friends and family described Bell as valuing his family above all else. Shannon described him as a wonderful husband and father, and a good provider for their family.

"He adored me," she said. "And I loved him so much."

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Max Seiss

WATERLOO — Max E. Seiss, 82, of Waterloo died Friday, May 9, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Seiss had installed and serviced jukeboxes, pinball machines and other recreational equipment since his discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1946. He was a former member of the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

He was born May 25, 1925, in Bryant to Durbin P. and Ruth Marceil (Wells) Seiss.

He married Gloria Smith on July 17, 1948, at the Cathedral Rectory in Fort Wayne. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Steven and Kris Seiss of Piqua, Ohio, Stanley and Linda Seiss of Warsaw, and Jeff Seiss of Auburn and Jon and Jenny Seiss of Auburn; three daughters and sons-in-law, Pamela and Robert Justus of Las Vegas, Janet and Mike Eckert of Edgewater, Wis., and Penny and Matt Nicely of Pleasant Lake; 14 grandchildren and their spouses, Kimberly Seiss, Stephanie Seiss, Christopher Seiss, Elle Seiss, Greg and Kim Seiss, Brad Seiss, Julie Seiss, Kristin Seiss, Tyson Seiss, Taylor Seiss, Jeremy Dietrich, Brent and Virginia Dietrich, Kena Baird and Kyle Baird; and four great-grandchildren, Sturgis Seiss, Terrin Dietrich, Willow Dietrich and Alannah Dietrich.

He was preceded in death by a brother, William Seiss.

There will be no calling or services. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
May 12 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Tarena Longsworth

KENDALLVILLE — Tarena Rae Longsworth, 57, of Kendallville died Saturday, May 10, 2008, at her residence.

Mrs. Longsworth

Mrs. Longsworth had moved to Kendallville in 2001 from Wolcottville.

She had worked as a retail clerk.

Mrs. Longsworth was a member of the Kendallville Eagles Lodge.

She was born July 24, 1950, in Kendallville to Ray Wilbur and Hilda Mae (Sherwood) Baird. She married Terry Lee Longsworth Sr. on Jan. 22, 1966, in Wolcottville. He preceded her in death on Aug. 4, 2001.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Terry Longsworth Jr. and Jan Longsworth of Kendallville, Troy Longsworth of Carrie, Ky., and Todd and Emily Longsworth of Kendallville; five grandchildren, Tiffany, Christopher, Zachariah, Jenna and Owen Longsworth; a sister, Patty Pierce of Kendallville; and four brothers, Lyle Baird of Auburn, Billy Baird of Rome City, Larry Baird of Hicksville, Ohio, and Jack Baird of Topeka.

She was preceded in death by a sister and five brothers.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with Pastor Gary Dilley officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be Rickey Payton, Ron Payton, Lowell Payton, Steve Pierce, John Pierce, Mike Baird and Chris Longsworth.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble Home Health and Hospice.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Mildred Todd

HOWE — Mildred I. Todd, 89, of Howe died Monday, May 12, 2008, at Parkview LaGrange Hospital.

Mrs. Todd was a homemaker. She had also been the bookkeeper for Keith Todd and Son Masonry and had worked for Sealed Power Corp. in LaGrange.

She was a member of South Milford Church of Christ, River Oaks Home Economics Club and had volunteered at Parkview LaGrange Hospital for 20 years.

Mrs. Todd was born on Dec. 28, 1918, in Auburn to Carl D. and Imogene M. (Bassett) Strawser. She married J. Keith Todd in Brimfield on May 13, 1939. He preceded her in death on Aug. 17, 1999.

Also surviving are two daughters, Nancy M. Huff of LaGrange, and Beverly J. Todd of Howe; a son and daughter-in-law, John and Mary Todd of South Milford; six grandchildren and their spouses, Michael and Robin Todd, Holly and Jeff Spaw, Tammy and Denver Preston, Todd and Myrtle Huff, Julie and Chris Conley and Michele and Todd Jones; 16 great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Carol Helmer of LaGrange and Naomi and Donald Moore of Kokomo; and a brother and sister-in-law, Sherman and Majorie Strawser of Kendallville.

She was also preceded in death by two great-grandchildren and a brother, Forrest Strawser.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at South Milford Church of Christ with the Rev. Michael Booher officiating. Burial will be in South Milford Cemetery in South Milford.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange and from 10-11 a.m. Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to South Milford Church of Christ.

Send condolences to the family at frurip mayfuneralhome.com

Jane VanDusen

AUBURN — Jane M. VanDusen, 99, of Auburn died Sunday, May 11, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Born in Detroit, she was a homemaker and a member of the Indian Village Church of God.

Surviving are a friend, Martha Pitzer of Auburn, and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Frank VanDusen, and a daughter, Elizabeth McDonald.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Raymond Warner officiating. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Wednesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Betz Nursing Home.

James Hawkins

GARRETT — James L. Hawkins, 65, died Friday, May 9, 2008, at his home in Garrett.

Born in Wolf Lake, he was a driver with UPS for 28 years, retiring in 1994. He was a graduate of Ligonier High School and a member of Bethel United Methodist Church and BPOE in Ligonier. He served in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Hawkins

Surviving are his wife, Marcia L. (Harris) Hawkins of Garrett; a son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Mary Beth Hawkins of Leesburg; daughters, two daughters and a son-in-law, Jennifer and Tom Sapp of Grand Junction, Colo., and Kimberly Graham of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren, John Hawkins, Rachel and Gavin Sapp and Alexis and Ashley Graham; a brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Pat Hawkins of Pensacola, Fla.; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Nancy and Merrit Gangwer of Ligonier and Thora Knight of Phoenix, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Lillian Hawkins.

Services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. The Rev. Dennis Leinbach will officiate.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Whitley County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association or Bethel United Methodist Church.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with a correction in a surviving relative's name.*

Harold Shellenberger

GARRETT — Harold H. Shellenberger, 82, of Garrett died Thursday, May 8, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Shellenberger owned and drove a milk route for Pet Milk Co. from 1949-63. He then became a pilot, flying for Consolidated Airways and Executive Aviation out of Baer Field, and worked part time for a crew for Magnavox. He was a World War II Marine veteran, and was awarded the Purple Heart.

He was a member and a past deacon and elder of First Church of Christ in Garrett. He was a member of the Quiet Birdmen in Fort Wayne, Garrett American Legion Post No. 178, Garrett Lions Club and volunteered at the World War II Victory Museum in Auburn. He held a business jet and ATR rating and was a qualified instrument and ground school instructor.

He was born July 8, 1925, in Fort Wayne to Charles Homer and Bessie (Cramer) Shellenberger.

He married Harriet (Gulick) Vise on May 1, 1946, in Chicago. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Carole E. Vise Shellenberger Shine and Timothy Shine of Houston; five grandchildren and four spouses, Jeffrey and Angela Grupp of Dallas, Michael and Tanya Grupp of Garland, Texas, Linda and Ronnie Wells and Bradley Grupp, all of Houston, and Christopher and Tonya Grupp of St. Louis, Mich.; eight great-grandchildren, Brian Grupp, Ashley Grupp, Tiffany Grupp, Michael Grupp, Brandon Grupp, Samantha Wells, Tiffany Grupp and Christopher Grupp; and five great-great grandchildren. He also had a half sister, Edna.

Services were Monday at 10 a.m. at the First Church of Christ in Garrett, with the Rev. Jim Lilley officiating. Burial was in Embry Cemetery in Garrett.

Memorials are to the church.

Joy Kirkpatrick

BUTLER — Joy E. Kirkpatrick, 61, of Butler died Sunday evening, May 11, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a custodian at Butler Elementary School for 28 years and a member of the Butler Nazarene Church.

She was born Feb. 2, 1947, in Auburn to Albert L. and Audrey M. (Johnson) Brown.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Sunida Kirkpatrick of Butler; two daughters and a son-in-law, Dawn and Greg Kaiser of Edon, Ohio, and Tonya Hetrick of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Lynn P. Brown of Churubusco and Rick Brown of Butler; six sisters, Kay Lemmon of Camden, Mich., Bonnie Harbaugh of Vincennes, Julia Wynkoop of Grant, Mich., Ella Jo Cliffton of Edgerton, Ohio, Dozzy Coburn of Butler and Linda Craig of Auburn; and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, William Brown, and two sisters, Sue Kring and Denise Landis.

Services will be Thursday at 7 p.m. in H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with the Rev. Paul Patton of the Butler Nazarene Church officiating.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Butler Nazarene Church.

To sign a guestbook, visit hejohnsonfh.com.

Della Symes

GIBRALTAR, Mich. — Della Margaret Symes, 87, of Gibraltar, Mich., died May 7, 2008.

She was born Aug. 29, 1920, in Atlantic City, N.J., to Peter and Della (Hansen) Friis.

She married Charles Symes in Orchard Lake, Mich., in 1964. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert J. Reetz and Joan Treesh-Reetz of Butler and Kerry D. and Marcia Reetz of Livonia, Mich.; a brother, Larry Ammon of Howell, Mich.; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daugher, Della Love Gardiner; a brother, Nichols Ammon; and two sisters, Dolly Taylor and Peggy Antinelli.

A memorial service was held Saturday.

Condolences may be sent to arthurbobcean.com.

Carl Goodwin

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — Carl B. "Rusty" Goodwin, 88, of St. Augustine, Fla., and Roswell, Ga., died April 5, 2008, at his home in St. Augustine.

Mr. Goodwin was a native of St. Joe. He worked for Colonial Life and Accident for more than 40 years in the Washington, D.C., area.

Surviving are three sons, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two sisters.

A memorial service will be May 31 at 11 a.m. in St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church, 6900 River Road, Bethesda, Md.

Helen Showalter-Haggarty

INDIANAPOLIS — Helen Showalter-Haggarty, 98, of Indianapolis died Thursday May 15, 2008, at her residence, the Forum, in Indianapolis.

After graduating from Greenfield High School she attended Indiana University, where she earned her degree as a registered nurse. Soon after graduation she married Dr. John Showalter and moved to his hometown of Waterloo, where he established his medical practice. She continued to live in Waterloo until her husband's death in 1967.

She married John Haggarty of Auburn on Dec. 6, 1968. They lived in Auburn until 1991, when they moved to the Forum in Indianapolis. He preceded her in death.

She was a charter member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and remained connected to the Indiana University chapter throughout her life. Her hobbies were playing bridge and golf and traveling in the United States and abroad.

She was born June 17, 1909, in Greenfield to Maude and Frank Rhoadarmer.

Surviving are a stepson and his wife, Michael C. and Anne Haggarty of Auburn; a stepdaughter and her husband, Betty and Jim Spurrier of Chatham, Ill.; two stepgrandchildren, John Haggarty of Auburn and Thomas Haggarty of Fort Wayne; her stepgreat-grandchildren; two guardian nephews, David Rhoadarmer of Martinsville and John Rhoadarmer of Traverse City, Mich.; a great-niece; two great-nephews; and six great-grand-nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Rhoadarmer, a sister, Elizabeth Floyd, and a niece.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Nancy Becker officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Gerald Blauser

AUBURN — Gerald "Jerry" L. Blauser, 79, of Auburn died Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Blauser worked as an assembler at International Harvester and was a member of the Fort Wayne Bowling Association and the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

He was born April 30, 1929, in Fort Wayne to Lloyd Blauser and Clara "Betty" (Talbert) Chausse.

He married Phyllis J. Chaney on Sept. 3, 1950, in Spencerville. She died July 31, 1983.

He married Delores Simpson on Dec. 18, 1987, in Angola. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jay Blauser of Harlan and Phillip and Pam Blauser of Grabill; two daughters and a son-in-law, Dawn Blauser of Grabill and Mary and Joe Hunt of Cecil, Ohio; several stepchildren; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and a sister, Kate Stopher of Salem, Ore.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Blauser.

Private funeral services will be conducted, with Pastor Liz Nickel officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-7 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials are to Parkview North Hospice, Parkview Hospital Foundation, 2200 Randalia Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

THE EVENING STAR
May 17 2008 Auburn, Indiana

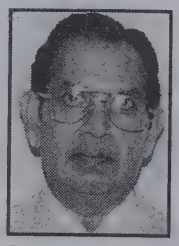
Longtime Kendallville physician Manu Patel dies

KENDALLVILLE — Manu Patel, M.D., 69, of Kendallville died Sunday, May 11, 2008, while on board a cruise ship near Vancouver, British Columbia.

A longtime Kendallville physician, Dr. Patel was an active member of the Parkview Noble Hospital (and former McCray Memorial Hospital) medical staff, and practiced medicine for 34 years in Kendallville until his retirement in August 2006.

He was an active member of the local and state medical societies and also the American Medical Association. Dr. Patel was a voracious reader of all scriptural texts and put the teachings into practice in his everyday life.

Dr. Patel was born in Jalalpor, India, in 1938 to Prabhudas and Gangaben Prabhudas (Gangaben Morarji) Patel. He married Amita M. Patel in June 1966 in Toledo, Ohio. She survives in Kendallville.


Dr. Patel

Also surviving are two brothers and sisters-in-law, Chandrakant and Taraben Patel of New York, N.Y., and Dr. Prakash and Vasuben Patel of India; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Dr. Usha Patel, Bharatiben and Krushnakant Patel, and Meenakshi and Bhikhubhai Patel, all of India; five nephews; three nieces; and six grand-nephews and grand-nieces.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville. Cremation services will be at Northern Indiana Crematory, Fort Wayne, directly following the services in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

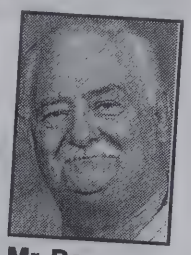
Memorials are to Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, American Lung Association or American Heart Association.

View a video tribute by Sunday or send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

Terry Bowman

AUBURN — Terry L. Bowman, 61, died Thursday, May 15, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in Auburn, Mr. Bowman was a member of Lakewood Park Baptist Church. His hobbies were hunting and fishing.


Mr. Bowman

Surviving are a daughter, Annalisa Ohning of Auburn; two sons, Curtis Bowman and Travis Bowman, both of Auburn; six grandchildren, Damian Bowman, Ryan Ohning, Austin Bowman, Shalyn Bowman, Nicholas Bowman and Carson Ohning; a brother, Jerry Bowman of Auburn; a sister, Shirley Baird of Auburn; his fiancee, Linda Kapp of Auburn; a half-sister, Barb Buttermore of Auburn; and the mother of his children, Sandra F. Bowman of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Duane Bowman and Mary Jane Patterson-Bowman-Ganger, and two brothers, Duane Bowman Jr. and Don Bowman.,

A memorial service will be at a later date.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Baptist Church.

THE EVENING STAR
May 17 2008 Auburn, Indiana

J. Joan Hindman

PLEASANT LAKE — J. Joan Hindman, 65, of Pleasant Lake died Thursday, May 15, 2008, at her home.

She was born June 29, 1942, in Ashley to Ralph and Lena (Nelson) Roland.

She married Larry Hindman on Nov. 14, 1959, in St. Michael's Catholic Church. He survives in Pleasant Lake.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Holley and Frank Fenton and Tammy Gray; a son, Wesley Hindman; five grandchildren, Erica Hindman, Zac Fenton, Brady Fenton, Kass Fenton and Delaney Fenton; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Ralph and Helen Roland and Al and Shelley Roland; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Fairy and Bob Stomm and Diana and LD Rowe.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Stacey Jo Hindman, and three sisters, Dawn Stoy, Bonnie Perry and Gloria Roland.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. George Foulk officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in rural Waterloo.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Robert Beuchel

LAGRANGE — Robert "Bobby" Leroy Beuchel, 66, of Howe died Thursday, May 15, 2008, at Heartland Hospice Home in Three Rivers, Mich.

Mr. Beuchel

He worked in the Auburn Foundry in Auburn before moving to Pinconning, Mich., in 1967. He worked at Magline Inc. in Pinconning and retired from Northern Tube Inc. in Pinconning after 30 years of service.

Mr. Beuchel enjoyed playing cards, especially Texas Hold'em, and playing dominos with his family and friends.

He was born Jan. 10, 1942, in Auburn to Robert George and Mary Katherine (Seigel) Beuchel. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a stepdaughter, Marie Childers of Romeo, Mich.; a sister and brother-in-law, Jeanette (Beuchel) and Carl E. Bowers of Howe; three aunts; one uncle; two nieces and their husbands; a nephew; four great-nephews; eight great-nieces; two great-great nephews and two great-great nieces.

He was preceded in death by an infant sister, Barbara Ann Beuchel; a stepson, Jason Childers; a brother-in-law, Eugene M. Bowers and two nieces.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Memorials are to Heartland Hospice Home in Three Rivers, Mich. or a charity of the donor's choice.

Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to Carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

Jason Comment

AUBURN — Jason W. Comment, 31, of Auburn died at 12:25 a.m. Saturday, May 17, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Comment

He was a meter reader for the Auburn electric department for three years.

Mr. Comment was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett and the National Kidney Foundation.

He was born Jan. 7, 1977, in Auburn to Dave F. and Tanna M. (Hoover) Comment. They survive in Waterloo. He married LaVon M. Bartels on July 10, 1999, in Garrett. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are his parents-in-law, Merlin and Dawn Bartels of Garrett; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Matt and Kristina Comment of Hamilton and David and Shannon Comment of Corunna; a sister, Hope Porter of Goshen; his grandmother, Dottie Arnott of Auburn; a grandfather, Darold Comment of Auburn and four nieces.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with the Rev. David Mix officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the National Kidney Foundation.

Condolences may be sent online and the online register book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
May 18 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Bob Moran gave to others as public servant, citizen

BY DENNIS HARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — His was truly a wonderful life.

Robert "Bob" Moran was a proud father of three daughters and six grandchildren, loving husband to his wife Frances "Fran" for 57 years, a submariner in the Korean War, a respected Indiana State Police sergeant, a devoted member of Trinity Church United Methodist, a valued East Noble School Corp. employee and a dedicated citizen.

He gave of himself to help others.

"Bob did not let artificial barriers such as race, skin color or any other thing cause him to not respect or help another human being," said Pastor Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville.

Mr. Moran

Mr. Moran served 28 years with the Indiana State Police, retiring in 1985 with the rank of squad sergeant. He also spent five years as an Indiana State Police District No. 22 firearms instructor.

Pattison recalled the time when state trooper Moran was in LaGrange County. He spotted smoke coming from a house. When he investigated he entered the house to find an invalid Amish woman. He carried her outside to safety and for many years after that the Amish family welcomed him into their home.

"The woman's husband called him their angel," said Pattison.

Noble County Sheriff Gary Leatherman worked closely with Mr. Moran when they were both in the state police.

"In law enforcement every day presents new challenges and Bob was a great mentor," said Leatherman. "You could ask for his input on something and expect a straight forward answer."

Leatherman considers Mr. Moran a role model for him during his career. "Bob Moran contributed in his own way to what I currently apply to leadership principles today," Leatherman said.

Mr. Moran was a member of the Pioneers of the Indiana State Police and the Indiana State Police Memorial Foundation.

He served in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service during the Korean War from January 1952 to January 1956. He graduated from submarine school in New London, Conn., and served on the U.S.S. Trigger before his selection as a member of the original crew of the world's first atomic-powered submarine, the U.S.S. Nautilus.

He underwent extensive training for an atomic-powered submarine environment.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert L. Moran, when he was with the Indiana State Police, is shown with his wife, Frances, and daughters Debra, Marsha and Nancy.

"It was quite an honor," said his wife, Fran.

He attended the University of Pittsburgh to study nuclear power and received further training in Blackfoot, Idaho, in preparation for the launch of the Nautilus.

After his service Mr. Moran and his wife attended Nautilus reunions and visited his old ship, now part of a naval museum in New London. He was a life time member of Nautilus Alumni Association.

Mr. Moran was very proud of his three daughters and their accomplishments.

"As well as a highly commendable professional career, Bob shared with his wife a very successful domestic life," said his former pastor, the Rev. Dr. Dan Barker, now pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albion. "The home environment they created together effectively nurtured their three gifted daughters, the same strong resolve that each of the three has achieved in her life."

Barker especially enjoyed Mr. Moran's company.

"He was gregarious and gracious, and it was always a pleasure to greet Bob in a variety of venues," said Barker.

Following his retirement from the state police, Mr. Moran worked as transportation and maintenance director for East Noble School Corp. for seven years and was a tool room manager for J.O. Mory for five years.

Retired East Noble assistant superintendent Doyle Igney said Mr. Moran was a perfect fit for the school position after his retirement from the state police because of his knowledge of school bus laws and regulations and years of working with people.

"Bob was a people person. His door was always open to his staff and parents. He took their concern or complaint seriously and sought an answer for them," said Igney.

His office staff knew it was spring because Mr. Moran brought them fresh asparagus from his garden.

"Bob was not one just to be content to do one thing," said Pattison. He was a licensed plumber and worked part-time in construction for Don Strater, Inc.

He was accomplished in woodworking and enjoyed working on antique cars and tractors, in his garden, fields and yard.

His church was a big part of his life.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert L. Moran is shown when he was with the U.S. Navy Submarine Service during the Korean War.

Mr. Moran was a youth group sponsor for eight years and trustee for six years at Trinity Church United Methodist.

Mr. Moran was a past vice commander and historian at the Kendallville American Legion Post 86 where he was a lifetime member. He was a 50-year member of Kendallville Masonic Lodge 276.

"Bob's life helps us see the care and love of God in many ways," said Pattison.

Robert Lyall Moran, 77, of Kendallville, died Friday, May 2, 2008, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Nov. 19, 1930, in Three Rivers, Mich., to E. Lyall and Vivian (Kramb) Moran. He graduated from Bristol High School in 1949, and married Frances Meitzler on Jan. 4, 1951, in First Methodist Church in Bristol. She survives in Kendallville.

Survivors also include three daughters and sons-in-law, Debra and David Hockley of Kendallville, Marsha and Raymond Bassett of Kendallville and Dr. Nancy and Norman Hockley of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren and their spouses.

Mr. Moran is buried in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Chesney VanDyke Jr.

BUTLER — Chesney M. VanDyke Jr., 65, died Saturday, May 17, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. VanDyke worked at the B.F. Goodrich Fort Wayne plant for 33 1/2 years, retiring in 2002. He served in the U.S. Army, spending his entire tour in Germany.

Mr. VanDyke Jr.

He was part of the chain gang for the Eastside High School football team for 10 years and was a big EHS sports fan. He was one of the founders of the Crime Watch program in St. Joe from 1990-1995, and he collected stamps and coins.

He was born Sept. 15, 1942, in Lima, Ohio, to Chesney M. VanDyke Sr. and Elsie (Boop) VanDyke.

He married Lorrinda P. Barber-Dillon on Nov. 9, 1963, in Meauwataka, Mich. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Chesney Dell and Tammi Jo VanDyke of Louisville, Ky., Anthony "Buddy" and Rochelle VanDyke of Auburn, Terry Allen VanDyke of Butler and John Jeffrey David and Shelly VanDyke of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Tammy Louise and Victor Newman Jr.; 14 grandchildren, Alissa VanDyke, Chesney Dell VanDyke Jr., Cody Ward, Carissa Dennis, George Laney, Nick Laney, Taylor VanDyke, Jacob King, Gabrielle King, John Wayne VanDyke, Madison VanDyke, Myala VanDyke, Victoria Snow and Dustin Newman; eight great-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Nancy VanDyke of Lima, Ohio, and William and Pam VanDyke of Edgerton, Ind.; and two sisters, Melanie VanDyke of Spencerville and Cheryl Davidson of Auburn.

Services will be Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Rex Charles officiating. Military honors will be presented by the Butler American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Louis Swarm

BUTLER — Louis F. Swarm, 72, died Saturday, May 17, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mr. Swarm was a retired farmer. He was born Nov. 5, 1935, in Mishawaka to Earnest and Alice (Auer) Swarm.

Surviving are a sister, Wilda J. Trojan of St. Joseph, Mich.; a nephew and nieces.

Services will be Wednesday at 4 p.m. in H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Graveside services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at St. John's Cemetery in Woodland, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Calling will be Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Yang Kim

AUBURN — Yang Im Kim, 77, of Auburn died Sunday, May 18, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Kim was a homemaker. She was born Jan. 20, 1931, in South Korea.

Her husband, Ul Cho Kim, preceded her in death.

Surviving are one son, Teac Yul Kim of Seoul, South Korea; one daughter and son-in-law, Nang W. and Joseph Stephens of Auburn; 11 grandchildren, Amanda K. Stephens, Melissa K. Stephens, Joseph F. Stephens Jr., Shawnee K. Stephens, Jin Hyung Kim, Soo Ee Kim, Soo Yeon Kim, Aa Young Kim, Ah Jung Kim, Eun Hye Kim, Do Hyung Kim; one great-grandchild; and two brothers.

She was preceded in death by one son, Teac Kun Kim.

There will be no calling or services.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling the arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
May 19 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Terry Bowman

AUBURN — A memorial service for Terry L. Bowman will be tonight at 7 at Lakewood Park Baptist Church, 5555 C.R. 29, Auburn.

Mr. Bowman, 61, died Thursday, May 15, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in Auburn on Dec. 28, 1946,, Mr. Bowman was a member of Lakewood Park Baptist Church. His hobbies were hunting and fishing.

Surviving are a daughter, Annalisa Ohning of Auburn; two sons, Curtis Bowman and Travis Bowman, both of Auburn; six grandchildren, Damian Bowman, Ryan Ohning, Austin Bowman, Shalyn Bowman, Nicholas Bowman and Carson Ohning; a half-brother, Jerry Bowman of Auburn; two half-sisters, Shirley Baird of Auburn and Barb Buttermore of Auburn; his fiancee, Linda Kapp of Auburn; and the mother of his children, Sandra F. Bowman of Auburn.

Mr. Bowman

He was preceded in death by his parents, Duane Bowman and Mary Jane Patterson-Bowman-Ganger, and two brothers, Duane Bowman Jr. and Don Bowman.,

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Baptist Church.

THE EVENING STAR
May 20 2008 Auburn, Indiana

LaGrange businessman, public servant Donald Curtis, 80, dies

LAGRANGE — Donald D. "Pete" Curtis, 80, of LaGrange died Sunday, May 18, 2008, at his residence.

Mr. Curtis was a lifetime LaGrange resident and the 2005 LaGrange Citizen of the Year.

He served the LaGrange Volunteer Fire Department for more than 30 years as secretary, captain, assistant chief and as fire chief for 14 years. Under his leadership, numerous improvements were made to the fire department, including new equipment and training.

Mr. Curtis also served as LaGrange County commissioner for 12 years from 1981-1993 and spearheaded efforts to implement the Emergency 911 telephone system, improve and expand the EMT ambulance service and EMT training, and to install and maintain a helicopter landing pad at the LaGrange hospital.

During his years of service as commissioner, he also undertook and completed major projects that included substantial renovations to the LaGrange County Courthouse, construction of the County Office Building and county highway buildings.

Mr. Curtis

Mr. Curtis and his family have operated a business in LaGrange for three generations, Curtis Wrecking, which started with his father and now is operated by his son.

He was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in LaGrange and LaGrange American Legion Post 215.

Mr. Curtis was a World War II U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

He was born Aug. 13, 1927, in LaGrange to Clarence S. and Florence E. (Stevens) Curtis. He married Mildred J. Gitt on Nov. 25, 1946, in LaGrange. Mrs. Curtis survives in LaGrange.

Also surviving are a daughter Kathleen Curtis of Indianapolis; three sons and daughters-in-law, Phillip and Barbara Curtis of Howe and Stephen and Sandra Curtis and Kem and Gail Curtis, all of LaGrange; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and a sister, Donna Sturgis of LaGrange.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Marie Gitt.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Fruripmay Funeral Home in LaGrange with Deacon George Douglass officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery at LaGrange with a military graveside services by LaGrange American Legion Post 215.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to LaGrange Fire Department.

Condolences may be left for the family at fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Edward Proksa

AUBURN — Edward J. Proksa, 86, of Auburn died Monday, May 19, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Proksa was an agent distributor for Mobil Oil for 38 years, retiring in 1977. He was a U.S. Navy pilot serving 24 years of active duty, including during World War II, and reserve duty, retiring in 1977 with the rank of lieutenant commander. He was a past president of the DeKalb County Aviation Board, serving on that board for 24 years.

Mr. Proksa

He was a member of First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Auburn; a past president of Auburn Jaycees and Auburn Rotary Club; a member of Hoosier Warbirds; a 50-year member of both American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and DeKalb Lodge No. 214 F&AM; and a member of Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, Mizpah Shrine and the Flying Shriners.

He was a former member of the DeKalb Memorial Hospital board. He served for eight years on the Auburn City Council and was on the Board of Public Works and Safety and police commissioner.

He traveled in his motor home and belonged to various motor home groups, including FMCA.

He was born May 29, 1921, in Chicago to Joseph and Katherine (Surin) Proksa.

He married Martha Jane Hendricks on Feb. 24, 1962, in Fort Wayne. She died Jan. 9, 1988.

He then married Raynell (Sayre) Sibery on July 27, 1990, at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are seven daughters, Patricia S. Schomaker of Bay City, Mich., Mary Lou Forrester of Deming, N.M., Leslie A. Proksa of Indianapolis, Laura J. DeWitt of Fort Wayne, Betty A. Rugman of Camden, S.C., Susan L. Meyers of Waterloo and Shawn Fender of Auburn; two stepsons, Ross Sibery of Leesburg and Rod Sibery of Fort Wayne; 19 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Alexis Sibery, and a brother, George Proksa.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Auburn. Dr. Robert Craig will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn. American Legion Post 97 of Auburn will conduct graveside military honors.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. A Masonic service will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to his church or to DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

R. June Ely

AVILLA — R. June Ely, 81, of Avondale, Ariz., and formerly of Avilla and LaOtto died Saturday, May 17, 2008, in Avondale.

Mrs. Ely was a homemaker.

She enjoyed NASCAR and wintering in Daytona Beach, Fla.

She was born June 8, 1926, in Hammond to Fred and Clara (Seebauer) Rowe.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Brenda Myers of Avondale; a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Mike Amstutz of Auburn; a stepdaughter and her husband, Sue and Larry Montgomery of Butler; two stepsons and their wives, Larry and Marie Ely of New Haven and Rick and Lisa Ely of Avilla; nine grandchildren, Brent Myers, Lishia Binkley, Nikki Hitchcock, Laura Surface, Julie Hess, Debra Amstutz, Mike Amstutz, Joseph Amstutz and Catlin Amstutz; and several great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Eugene Myers on Feb. 3, 1973, and Harold "Barney" Ely in 2004; three brothers; and a sister.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, with the Rev. Joel Surface officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Hospice Valley.

Mary Brecht

FORT WAYNE — Mary Brecht, 94, a former resident of Muscatine, Iowa, died Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at The Towne House Retirement Center in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Brecht

She was a former member of St. Mathias Church and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Joan of Arc Court 524. She and her husband, Iver, moved to Fort Wayne in the fall of 2002.

She was born Jan. 20, 1914, in Davenport, Iowa, to William C. and Bertha Klepher Bissell.

She married Iver Irwin Brecht on June 9, 1945, in Ottumwa, Iowa. He died July 6, 2003.

Surviving are five daughters and three sons-in-law, Susan and Roger Souder of Auburn, Bonita and James Delehoy of Anaheim, Calif., Mary Lynn and Brian Gaffney of Burnsville, Minn., Kathryn Palmer of Winter Garden, Fla., and Teresa Brecht of Clive, Iowa; two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Carol Brecht of Moline, Ill., and Richard and Elizabeth Brecht of Clive, Iowa; 16 grandchildren; five stepgrandchildren; six great-grandchildren; nine stepgreat-grandchildren; and two brothers, Robert Bissell of Muscatine, Iowa, and Fredrick Bissell of Sacramento, Calif.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, William and James Bissell.

Services will be Monday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mathias Church, 215 W. Eighth St., Muscatine, Iowa. The Rev. Jason Crossen will officiate. Entombment will be in the Muscatine Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Calling will be Sunday from 1-5 p.m. at the Ralph J. Wittich-Riley-Freers Funeral Home with a 5 p.m. rosary prayer service.

Memorials are to Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice or the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Joan of Arc Court 524.

Online condolences may be left at wittichfuneral-home.com.

THE EVENING STAR
May 24 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Lacey DePriest

AUBURN — Lacey Shea Depriest, 19, of Auburn, died Friday, May 23, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. DePriest

Mrs. DePriest was a full-time mother.

She was born June 3, 1988, in Knoxville, Tenn., to David and Patricia (Wright) McCormack of Osceola, Ark.

She married Tyler DePriest on Dec. 26, 2007, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Tyla and Ecko DePriest, both at home; a brother, Michael McCormack of Jonesboro, Ark; three nephews and a niece; grandparents, Jerry and Louise Wright of Paragould, Ark.; and her in-laws, Christina and Charle Miller of Auburn and Jay DePriest of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the family.

L. Bobbette Rediger

BUTLER — L. Bobbette Rediger, 82, of Butler, died Thursday, May 22, 2008, at The Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Rediger

She worked at the Grabill Cabinet Co. for 38 years, retiring in 1990. She was a member of the Coburn Corners Church of Christ in St. Joe. Her hobbies were cross-stitching and baking.

She graduated from Harlan High School in 1944.

She was born Jan. 13, 1926, in Kokomo to Guy Wolfe and Jennie Shamo.

Surviving are her stepmother, Katherine Wolfe of New Berlin, Wis.; a son and daughter-in-law, James and Julie Rediger of Lake City, Fla.; a daughter and son-in-law, Kay A. and Dale Bennett of Auburn; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Jon Wolfe of Phoenix, Ariz., and Mandel and Sara Wolfe of Hales Corners, Wis.; a sister and brother-in-law, Chris and David Smith of Phoenix; six grandchildren, Joan Mathes of Spencerville, James Sechler of Auburn, Joleen Ramon of Auburn, Brooke Goldstein of Westfield, Jennifer Puterbaugh of Hannibal, Mo., and Janis Strong of Spencerville; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Judith Sechler, in August 1986; a sister, Tony Kramer; and her grandmother, Floss Shamo.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Coburn Corners Church of Christ.

THE EVENING STAR
May 25 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Gentry a pro on and off the field

BY VIV SADE ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — From the time she began playing baseball and hockey as a teen to the last day she showed up for work at the age of 77, Ruth Mona Middleton Gentry was the consummate professional.

She grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the youngest of three children born Aug. 25, 1930, to Albert J. and Nellie M. (Walters) Middleton. Her brother, Albert Middleton of Alberta, Canada, remembers their father practicing baseball with Ruth when she was a child.

Mrs. Gentry

"She was a fun-loving girl," her brother said. "I was the oldest, and then there was my brother, William, and Ruth was the baby — my dad's favorite."

The senior Albert would constantly coach and play ball with Ruth.

"Dad would have her swing at a bag with a ball in it to teach her to become a hitter," her brother recalled.

When she was 16, Ruth began playing baseball in a local club after her father convinced the coach that his daughter had a real talent for the sport. She also played hockey as a goalkeeper, but it soon became apparent that baseball was Ruth's game.

A short time later, Ruth began playing professional baseball for the St. Boniface Athletics in Canada. Then the Chicago Colleens drafted her in 1950.

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League operated in cities on or near Lake Michigan and began in 1943. Its main promoter was Philip Wrigley, owner of the Chicago Cubs, who worried about the viability of men's pro baseball during World War II and decided to establish an alternate attraction. The women's league lasted until 1954. Ruth played one year for the Colleens, then for the South Bend Blue Sox, Battle Creek Belles and Muskegon Lassies.

Along the way, she met Naomi "Sally" Meier, an all-star player with the Fort Wayne Daisies. A noted fielder, Sally was one of the fastest players in women's baseball. Ruth and Sally immediately hit it off and became lifelong friends.

Ruth was inducted into the American Baseball Hall of Fame in 1988. She later entered the Canadian Professional Baseball Hall of Fame June 4, 1998, and also the Manitoba Professional Baseball Hall of Fame.

When her baseball career ended, Ruth moved to Indiana, lived with Sally's family for a short time and worked at a car dealership. Later, both women bought homes in Hamilton, where Ruth continued to live until her death May 13. She became a member of the Hamilton Fish & Game Club, which she served as treasurer for over 30 years. She also was a member of the Canadian Legion.

After moving to northeast Indiana, Ruth landed a job as a bookkeeper for Yoder Ford in Garrett.

"She was a very caring person and so dedicated," said Bill Yoder, owner of Yoder Ford. He recalled that his father, Ernie Yoder, needed a bookkeeper for the dealership in 1965, when a customer recommended giving Ruth a call.

"I think he interviewed her for about two minutes and was so impressed, he hired her right then," Bill Yoder said.

Ruth stayed at Yoder Ford, operating as a business manager and bookkeeper, for the next 43 years.

"She never missed work and continued to work up until the time she died, when she was 77 years old," Yoder said.

In the 1980s, Sally Meier was diagnosed with cancer. Devastated, Ruth moved into Sally's home so she could be close in her time of need. For the next two or three years until Sally passed away, Ruth nursed her best friend through her terminal illness.

When Ruth was in her 40s, she met a man with whom she had a lot in common. She married Gerald "Jerry" Gentry on Oct. 13, 1972, and they seemed to enjoy each other immensely, Bill Yoder said. Tragically, they were married only nine months when Jerry had a heart attack and died.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ruth Middleton Gentry played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in the 1950s. A longtime resident of Hamilton, she died May 13 at the age of 77.

"I still remember when she got that call telling her that her husband was dead," Yoder said. "But Ruth was tough. She had been through a lot."

The fierce competitiveness and resiliency that served Ruth well all of her life would come into play at the end of her own game. Five years ago, at the age of 72, Ruth was diagnosed with cancer. She underwent 32 radiation treatments, the majority of the time driving herself to and from the hospitals, doctors and treatment centers.

"During that entire time, she only missed two days of work," Yoder said. "She was loyal and honest and straightforward. You always knew where you stood with Ruth."

Over the years, Yoder Ford has been the recipient of many dealership awards. Yoder is quick to credit Ruth's skills and professionalism for most of the honors.

"The business will never be the same without Ruth," he said. "She was one of a kind."

Edith Mertz

CORUNNA — Edith Ione Mertz, 86, of Corunna died Friday, May 23, 2008, at the Woodlands Nursing Home in Muncie.

Mrs. Mertz was a homemaker and belonged to the Auburn Church of Christ. She was a 41-year member of the Fairfield Extension Homemaker's Club and a 50-year member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Mertz was born Sept. 25, 1921, in Summitville, Tenn., to Alfred and Sarah (Jones) Taylor. She married William C. Mertz April 20, 1944, in Muncie. He preceded her death Aug. 7, 2002.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Jane Mertz of Muncie; two grandchildren, Andrew Scott Mertz and Molly Ann Hemmings; a sister-in-law, Olive Taylor of Muncie; and several nieces and nephews and special friends.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Woodrow, Edward and Charles Taylor; and three sisters, Carrie Miller, Nell St. John and Irene Tenpenny.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in Corunna. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of Christ or the Heimach Senior Activity Center.

Josephine Johnson

AUBURN — Josephine L. Johnson, 99, of Auburn, died Saturday, May 24, 2008, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Johnson worked at the Auburn Rubber Co. for 20 years. She then owned and operated the Auburn Diner for 15 years prior to retiring in 1974. She also was a member of the County Line Church of God and worked for 17 years as the directory of the DeKalb Chapter of the Salvation Army.

Mrs. Johnson was a Union Township Precinct 5 Republican Committewoman for 20 years and served on the DeKalb County Fair Board for 16 years.

She was born Aug. 10, 1908, in Orland to Jessie and Theresa Mae (Steffe) Loftus. She married Dan Johnson on Sept. 24, 1924, in Hillsdale, Mich. He preceded her death on Dec. 3, 1997.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Don and Jan Johnson of Fort Wayne; a daughter-in-law, Doris Johnson of Auburn; six grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She also was preceded in death by a son, Del Johnson; a brother, Lewis Loftus; and two sisters, Candis Wappes and Margaret Cook.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, with the Rev. Stuart Kruse officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Mary Call

KENDALLVILLE — Mary J. Call, 75, of Kendallville, died Friday, May 23, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Call worked as a supervisor at ITW Ransburg Electronics in Angola before retiring in 1993. She also was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church of Kendallville.

Mrs. Call was born in Allen County to Raymond and Mary (Pion) Potts and married Lyle Junior Call on March 17, 1951. Mr. Call preceded her death on Aug. 1, 1993.

Surviving are a son, Lyle W. Call of Hamilton; two daughters and sons-in-law, Vicky and Frank Snedaker of Angola and Cindy and Mike Triplett of Kendallville; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Terry and Linda Potts and John and Shila Potts of Angola, and Joe Potts of Rose Lake, Mich.; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Rita and Jerry Call of Butler, Jeannie and Harold Hornbrook of Fremont and Judy Hamilton of Bristol; and a sister-in-law, Wanda Potts of Fort Wayne.

She also was preceded in death by two brothers, Raymond and Dick Potts.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. Wayne Potts will officiate.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Weicht Funeral Home.

Burial will be at Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Charlie Robbins

AUBURN — Charlie M. Robbins, 70, of Auburn died Thursday, May 22, 2008, in his home.

Mr. Robbins worked for Elzey Funeral Home in Ossian and McKee-Miles Funeral Home in Garrett. He also worked part-time for D.O. McComb & Sons Funeral Home of Fort Wayne and McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home in Auburn. He served as a reserve officer for the DeKalb County Sheriff Department.

He also was employed as an insurance agent with Western & Southern Life Insurance of Fort Wayne for 28 years, retiring in 1993.

He graduated from Churubusco High School in 1957. Mr. Robbins then graduated from the Indiana College of Funeral Directors & Embalming in Indianapolis. He served as an intern for Flanner & Buchanan Funeral Home in Indianapolis from 1957-1960.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Garrett, Indiana Funeral Directors Association and Garrett Country Club and served as a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteer. His hobbies were playing and watching golf.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wis., to Charles and Sally Robbins.

On Aug. 10, 1957, he married Sharon Johnson. He later married Jane Schenkel of Huntington in 1995.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Deb Robbins of Garrett; a daughter, Julie Crabill of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Keith and Karen Robbins of Noblesville; a sister, Carole Coleman of Coshocton, Ohio; five grandchildren, Shannon Scheumann, and Stuart Crabill, both of Auburn, and Tae Robbins, Tabitha Helmick and Tasha Robbins, all of Garrett; three great-grandchildren, Jayden, Aaron and Will; several nieces and nephews; and ex-wives Sharon Beehler of Fort Wayne and Jane Schenkel-Robbins of Auburn,

He was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Aubrey Coleman; and a son-in-law; Terry Crabill.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in First Baptist Church, 1357 S. Randolph St., Garrett, with Pastor David Nix officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling is today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Children First Center, CASA or First Baptist Church of Garrett.

Elaina Henderson

GOLDEN LAKE — Elaina Marie Henderson, 53, died Saturday, May 24, 2008, at her home on Golden Lake.

Mrs. Henderson worked for Waterloo Head Start and later as a school bus driver for Children First Center for 10 years. She then worked as a school bus driver for Northeast Indiana Cooperative.

Mrs. Henderson

She attended Community Church of the Nazarene in Angola. She was a member of the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. Her hobbies were gardening, fishing and spending time with her grandchildren.

She was born Dec. 1, 1954, in Auburn, to Lewis and Blanche (Keller) Messman. Her mother survives in Waterloo.

She married Ray Henderson on May 27, 1972, in Waterloo. He survives.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Ray Jr. and Christina Henderson of Pleasant Lake, Joseph Henderson of Auburn and Mark and Angie Henderson of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Windy and Travis Kemp of Garrett; seven grandchildren, Calya Collins, Mattie Collins, Dakota Kemp, Autumn Henderson, Ashlyn Henderson, Ava Henderson and Brittany Henderson; and two brothers, Ron Messman and Thomas Messman, both of Waterloo.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Roger Messman.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo with Pastor Randy Marshall officiating.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Lucy Christlieb

GARRETT — Lucy "Marie" Christlieb, 93, of Garrett died Sunday, May 25, 2008, at 1:53 p.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. She had been in failing health since November.

Mrs. Christlieb

Mr. Christlieb was a homemaker and assisted her husband in the operation of Altona Heating & Plumbing for several years. In her leisure time, she gardened, raised flowers, and enjoyed her family.

She was born in Etna-Troy Township near Lorraine in Whitley County on July 23, 1914, to Alan Edward and Edna Marie (Watters) Anderson.

She moved to Libertyville, Ill., as a young girl with her parents and lived there for nine years before returning to this area.

On Nov. 14, 1932, in Churubusco she married Milton W. Christlieb. They lived on a farm near Avilla following their marriage, and moved to DeKalb County in 1939. After selling their farm, the couple moved to Altona near Garrett in 1961. Mr. Christlieb died November 27, 2001.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Vivian Marie and Max DePew of Churubusco, Fay Ann Holbrook of Garrett and Doris Jean Jones of Fort Wayne; a son and daughter-in-law, Lee F. and Janice Christlieb of Avilla; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Edward L. Anderson; a son-in-law, Howard Holbrook; and a great-grandson.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco, with Jim Lilley of the First Church of Christ in Garrett officiating. Burial will be in Hooper-King Cemetery, southwest of Avilla.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and from 6-8 p. m.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice in Auburn or St. Martin's Soup Kitchen in Garrett.

To leave a condolence, visit sheetsandchilds.net.

Jacob Batchelder

FORT WAYNE — Jacob Andrew Batchelder, infant son of Andrew and Michelle Batchelder of Fort Wayne, died Friday, May 23, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital, where he was born May 22, 2008.

Surviving, in addition to his parents, are his grandparents; Clarence and Bonnie Fater of Auburn and Larry and Nancy Batchelder of Fort Wayne; his great-grandparents, Raymond and Faye Myers; a great-grandfather, George Bickel; two uncles, Chris Batchelder and Randy Batchelder and his wife, Brandie; and an aunt, Beth Fater.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne.

Charles Seedorf

SPENCERVILLE — Charles D. Seedorf, 57, of Spencerville died Saturday, May 24, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Seedorf worked as a building inspector for the City of Auburn and was a Vietnam War veteran. He was a member of American Legion Post 409 and Cedarville Community Church.

He was born Dec. 4, 1950, in Michigan City to Irvin and Esther Seedorf. His mother survives in Michigan City. His father preceded him in death.

He married Roxanne (Loveless) Allen on June 26, 1993, in Michigan City. She survives in Spencerville.

Also surviving are a son, Aaron Seedorf of Los Angeles; a stepson, Bret Allen and his wife, Amy, of Leo; a stepdaughter, Rachel Emerick and her husband, Michael, of Fort Wayne; three granddaughters, Alexa, Blair and Mica Allen; and four sisters and two brothers-in-law, Yvonne and Gene Bancroft, Sharon Sabinski and Patricia and Larry Sherwood, all of Michigan City, and Terry Sherwood of Dallas.

Mr. Seedorf

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Cedarville Community Church, 12828 Main Street, Leo. Pastor Monte Sheets will officiate.

Calling will be Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Cedarville Community Church or American Legion Post 409, 14133 S.R. 1, Leo, IN 46765.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

Roberta Holman

HAMILTON — Roberta Mae Holman, 69, died Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at Heritage Park Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Holman graduated from Butler High School in 1957. She was a homemaker. Her hobbies were knitting, reading, butterflies and visiting with friends at tractor shows.

Mrs. Holman

She was a member of Jerusalem Community Church of Butler and taught Bible school there. She was a 50-year member of Pythian Sisters, a 38-year leader of Girl Scouts, belonged to the Franklin Friends Homemaker Club and held Good News Club meetings for many years. She was a member of the Cedar Creek Antique Engine and Tractor Association, Northeast Indiana Steam and Gas Association, Noble County Gas and Steam Association and Steuben County Antique Power Association and was active in the International Cockshutt Club.

She was born April 12, 1939, in Convoy, Ohio, to Bernard C. and Kathryn V. (Waller) Baxter.

She married Roger D. Holman on Aug. 30, 1958, at Jerusaleum E.U.B. Church of Butler. He survives in Hamilton.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Jean and David Headley of Fremont and Mary and James Graber of Harlan; five grandchildren, Alison Headley of Fremont and Jacob, Rebekah, Elijah and Caleb Graber of Harlan; three brothers and sisters-in-law. Kenneth and Irene Baxter of Hamilton, Cloyce and Shirley Baxter of Mount Sterling, Ky., and Harold and Sharon Baxter of Hamilton; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by an infant sister, Doty Maxine Baxter, in 1935, and another sister, Rosella Bostic, in 2005.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home. The Pythian Sisters will conduct a service Thursday at 8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Youth for Christ.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted to correct an error.*

Lucy Christlieb

GARRETT — Lucy "Marie" Christlieb, 93, of Garrett, died Sunday, May 25, 2008, at 1:53 p.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. She had been in failing health since November.

Mrs. Christlieb

Mrs. Christlieb was a homemaker and assisted her husband in the operation of Altona Heating & Plumbing for several years. In her leisure time, she gardened, raised flowers, and enjoyed her family.

She was born in Etna-Troy Township near Lorraine in Whitley County on July 23, 1914, to Alan Edward and Edna Marie (Watters) Anderson.

She moved to Libertyville, Ill., as a young girl with her parents and lived there for nine years before returning to this area.

On Nov. 14, 1932, in Churubusco she married Milton W. Christlieb. They lived on a farm near Avilla following their marriage, and moved to DeKalb County in 1939. After selling their farm, the couple moved to Altona near Garrett in 1961. Mr. Christlieb died November 27, 2001.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Vivian Marie and Max DePew of Churubusco, Fay Ann Holbrook of Garrett and Doris Jean Jones of Fort Wayne; a son and daughter-in-law, Lee F. and Janice Christlieb of Avilla; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Edward L. Anderson; a son-in-law, Howard Holbrook; and a great-grandson.

Services will be today at 2 p.m. at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco, with Jim Lilley of the First Church of Christ in Garrett officiating. Burial will be in Hooper-King Cemetery, southwest of Avilla.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice in Auburn or St. Martin's Soup Kitchen in Garrett.

To leave a condolence, visit sheetsandchilds.net.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with additional information.*

Charlie Robbins

AUBURN — Charlie M. Robbins, 70, of Auburn died Thursday, May 22, 2008, in his home.

Mr. Robbins

Mr. Robbins worked for Elzey Funeral Home in Ossian and McKee-Miles Funeral Home in Garrett. He also worked part-time for D.O. McComb & Sons Funeral Home of Fort Wayne and McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home in Auburn. He served as a reserve officer for the DeKalb County Sheriff Department.

He also was employed as an insurance agent with Western & Southern Life Insurance of Fort Wayne for 28 years, retiring in 1993.

He graduated from Churubusco High School in 1957. Mr. Robbins then graduated from the Indiana College of Funeral Directors & Embalming in Indianapolis. He served as an intern for Flanner & Buchanan Funeral Home in Indianapolis from 1957-1960.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Garrett, Indiana Funeral Directors Association and Garrett Country Club and served as a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteer. His hobbies were playing and watching golf.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wis., to Charles and Sally Robbins.

On Aug. 10, 1957, he married Sharon Johnson. He later married Jane Schenkel of Huntington in 1995.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Deb Robbins of Garrett; a daughter, Julie Crabill of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Keith and Karen Robbins of Noblesville; a sister, Carole Coleman of Coshocton, Ohio; five grandchildren, Shannon Scheumann, and Stuart Crabill, both of Auburn, and Tae Robbins, Tabitha Helmick and Tasha Robbins, all of Garrett; three great-grandchildren, Jayden, Aaron and Will; several nieces and nephews; and ex-wives Sharon Beehler of Fort Wayne and Jane Schenkel-Robbins of Auburn,

He was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Aubrey Coleman; and a son-in-law; Terry Crabill.

Services were today at 11 a.m. in First Baptist Church, 1357 S. Randolph St., Garrett, with Pastor David Nix officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to Children First Center, CASA or First Baptist Church of Garrett.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn handled arrangements.

Mary Belle Andrews

GARRETT — Mary Belle Andrews, 92, of Garrett died Sunday, May 25, 2008 at 2 a.m. at her daughter's home in Saginaw, Mich.

She worked in domestic service for many Garrett families.

Mrs. Andrews

She was born Dec. 13, 1915, in Newton, Ala., to Robert Haywood Doster and Dovie Mae (Thompson) Doster.

She married John T. Andrews on June 11, 1931, in Garrett. He died Aug. 24, 1999, after 68 years of marriage.

Surviving are seven daughters, Jeanette Tinsley of New Haven, Leotha Murphy of Bay City, Mich., Cleotha Tinsley of Saginaw, Mich., Phyllis Andrews of Saginaw, Mich., Violet Bland of Fort Wayne, Shirley Washington of Fort Wayne and Michelle Rose of White Lake, Mich.; 27 grandchildren; 70 great-grandchildren; 50 great-great-grandchildren; and a brother, Royal Doster of Willard, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Raymond E. and Lloyd W. Andrews, and one grandchild.

Graveside services and calling will be private.

Memorials are to the Kidney Foundation in memory of Raymond E. Andrews.

To send a condolence or sign the online register book, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

George Witt

OK

ASHLEY — George A. Witt, 67, died Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mr. Witt was a printing press operator for Moore Business Forms in Angola for more than 40 years, retiring in 2000. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving from 1958 to 1966. He graduated from Waterloo High School in the class of 1958. He was a member of Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren in rural Ashley.

He was born June 14, 1940, in Waterloo to Albert Leroy and Rena (Richardson) Witt.

He married Ruth Ann Kanaga on Jan. 21, 1962, in Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren. She survives.

Also surviving are one son, Albert C. Witt of Ashley; two sisters, Edith Lower of Bourbon and Rena Mae Klinger of Delphos, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Lori Ann Witt; and three brothers, Earl, Russell and Roy Witt.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren, with Pastor Valarie Kline officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery of rural Corunna.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-8 pm. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren.

Lyle Noragon

PLEASANT LAKE — Lyle D. Noragon, 75, of Pleasant Lake, died Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at his home.

He was retired from Magnavox, where he had worked 24 years as an engineer. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of American Legion Post No. 202 in Butler.

He was born in DeKalb County on Oct. 16, 1932, to Warren and Doris (Meyer) Noragon. He married Phyllis Dietrich on Oct. 30, 1985. She survives.

He is survived by two sons, Dan Noragon of Hamilton and Rick Dietrich of Pleasant Lake; a daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and John Grogg of Waterloo; a stepson, Keith Dietrich of Angola; two sisters, Delores Carpenter of Lady Lake, Fla.; and Ruth Wilson of Auburn; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Noragon; a stepson, Mark Bender; a son, Eddie D. Noragon; and a daughter, Nancy K. Noragon.

Graveside services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at Hamilton Cemetery in Hamilton, with the Rev. Lynn Eicher officiating. Butler American Legion Post No. 202 will conduct military services.

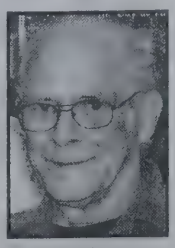
There is no calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Walter Keller

FORT WAYNE — Walter "Walt" E. Keller, 71, died Wednesday morning, May 28, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Keller drove trucks for Consolidated Freight for more than 30 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Teamsters 414, American Legion Post 47, High Hopes Clowns and the Spencerville United Methodist Church.



Mr. Keller

He was born Nov. 27, 1936, in Fort Wayne to the late Frank and Fern (Shivley) Keller.

He married Laura J. Johnson on Dec. 24, 1954, in Fort Wayne. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and his fiance, Walter E. Keller and Tammy McCann of Fort Wayne; four daughters and sons-in-law, Wanda and Lynn Hart of Fort Wayne, Tammy and Mark Baloy of California, Marjorie and Richard Clem of Fort Wayne and Jennifer and Randy Orr of Corunna; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by three brothers; one sister; and a granddaughter, Miranda Orr.

Services will be Saturday at noon in the Spencerville United Methodist Church with Pastor Gerry Weesner officiating. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the church.

Memorials are to Spencerville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Spencerville, IN 46788.

Carnahan-Baidinger and Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to list additional surviving relatives.*

Mary Belle Andrews

GARRETT — Mary Belle Andrews, 92, of Garrett died Sunday, May 25, 2008 at 2 a.m. at her daughter's home in Saginaw, Mich.

Mrs. Andrews

She worked in domestic service for many Garrett families.

She was born Dec. 13, 1915, in Newton, Ala., to Robert Haywood Doster and Dovie Mae (Thompson) Doster.

She married John T. Andrews on June 11, 1931, in Garrett. He died Aug. 24, 1999, after 68 years of marriage.

Surviving are seven daughters, Jeanette Tinsley of New Haven, Leotha Murphy of Bay City, Mich., Cleotha Tinsley of Saginaw, Mich., Phyllis Andrews of Saginaw, Mich., Violet Bland of Fort Wayne, Shirley Washington of Fort Wayne and Michelle Rose of White Lake, Mich.; 27 grandchildren, 70 great-grandchildren, 50 great-great-grandchildren; a brother, Royal Doster of Willard, Ohio; a daughter-in-law, Claudia Andrews of Fort Wayne; a sister-in-law, Hazel Doster of Garrett; and a brother-in-law, Matthew Andrews of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Raymond E. and Lloyd W. Andrews, and one grandchild.

Graveside services and calling will be private.

Memorials are to the Kidney Foundation in memory of Raymond E. Andrews.

To send a condolence or sign the online register book, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Lois Cool

MUNCIE — Lois Ellen Cool, 83, died Tuesday evening, May 28, 2008, at Woodlands Nursing Home in Muncie.

She was born June 19, 1924, in Auburn to Roa Bishop and Thomas Shafer.

She lived most of her life in Muncie and worked at Ball Stores for many years. She was known for her butterscotch pies.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jerry E. and Rita Cool of Muncie, six grandchildren, Brian Cool of Lake Orion, Mich., Christine Chapman of Muncie, Troy Cool of Pleasant Hill, Calif., Eric Cool of Muncie, Andrea Thornburg of Muncie and Lauren Cool of Indianapolis; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale H. Cool, and a son, Ronald D. Cool.

Graveside services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Gant Funeral Home of Yorktown is handling arrangements.

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Nora Cramer

AUBURN — Nora Elsie (Smith) Cramer, 94, died Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at Wesley Health Care Center in Auburn.

She was born in Awsworth, Derbyshire, England.

Mrs. Cramer

A piano teacher for 40 years, she was a graduate of Sherwood School of Music in Chicago. She was a member of Auburn Presbyterian Church, where she was an organist for 25 years. She also was an organist for Garrett Presbyterian Church and the Indian Village Church of God. She was a member of the American Guild of Organists.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Shirley and Charles Hall and Linda and John Ladd, all of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Gene and Delores Cramer of Florida; her grandchildren, Debra Holben, David Hall, Kirt Webber, Kip Webber, Melinda Boots, Douglas Cramer, Gene Cramer Jr., Patrick Cramer, Brett Cramer and Gregory Cramer; her stepgrandchildren, William Young, Randall Ladd, Rebecca Ford and Rhonda Kirkwood; her great-grandchildren, Kerri Van Cleave, Brandi Hall, Troy Webber, Kyra Boots and Gracee Boots; and her great-great-grandchildren, Brian Sonner, Ethan Van Cleave, Mason Van Cleave and Ella Van Cleave.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gallard Owen Cramer, in 1971; a grandson, Craig Sonner; and a sister, Patricia Bisschop.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Twelfth St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Memorials are to the Auburn Presbyterian Church music department or organ fund.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

James Pierson Sr.

KENDALLVILLE — James W. Pierson Sr., 76, of Rome City died Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at 2:21 p.m. at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange where he had been a resident for three days.

Mr. Pierson

Mr. Pierson had resided most of his life in Rome City, and attended Rome City High School. He retired in 1992 from Flint & Walling in Kendallville after 42 years of service.

He enjoyed cars, motorcycles, racing and the shooting range. He also enjoyed his pet dog.

He was born Nov. 18, 1931, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Clarence and Helen (Schwartz) Pierson. He married Wanda L. Wallen on Feb. 4, 1952, in LaGrange. She survives in Rome City.

Also surviving are a son, James W. Pierson Jr., and his wife Dinah of Kendallville; a granddaughter, Melissa Duff; a great-grandson, Benjamin Duff; and a sister, Gloria Hicks of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Sandra K. Pierson in 1966, and a sister, June Hawk.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. Lee Combs of Community Baptist Church in Wolcottville officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

View a video tribute or send condolences to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Myron Ress

WATERLOO — A memorial service for Myron Bruce Ress, 65, will be Sunday at 1 p.m. in Butler Memorial Gardens Cemetery, at the corner of C.R. 28 and C.R. 75, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Mr. Ress died March 8, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

Shirley Lawson

ANDERSON — Shirley Jean (Brand) Lawson, 65, of Anderson, died Thursday, May 22, 2008, at Community Hospital in Anderson after an extended illness.

Mrs. Lawson

Mrs. Lawson was an administrative assistant for World Marketing Motorola for 20 years. She was a member of the 5th Street United Methodist Church in Anderson.

She was born July 9, 1942, in Ashley and had lived in Anderson since 2001.

Surviving are her husband, Larry N. Lawson, whom she married in 1967; two daughters and sons-in-law, Melissa and Ray Hand of Mesa, Ariz., and Mindy and Matt Smith of Waterloo; a son, Brandon Lawson, and his fiancee, Stephanie, of Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Diane Brand of Ashley; a sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Noel Smith of Waterloo; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Buford and Catherine (Dreup) Brand; a brother, Ned Brand; and a nephew.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be Thursday, June 12, at 11 a.m. at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Ralph Diehl officiating. A dinner will follow at the church.

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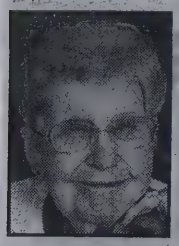
THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being republished to list an additional surviving relative.*

Nora Cramer

AUBURN — Nora Elsie (Smith) Cramer, 94, died Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at Wesley Health Care Center in Auburn.

She was born in Awsworth, Derbyshire, England.



Mrs. Cramer

A piano teacher for 40 years, she was a graduate of Sherwood School of Music in Chicago. She was a member of Auburn Presbyterian Church, where she was an organist for 25 years. She also was an organist for Garrett Presbyterian Church and the Indian Village Church of God. She was a member of the American Guild of Organists.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Shirley and Charles Hall and Linda and John Ladd, all of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Gene and Delores Cramer of Florida; her grandchildren, Debra Holben, David Hall, Kirt Webber, Kip Webber, Melinda Boots, Douglas Cramer, Gene Cramer Jr., Patrick Cramer, Brett Cramer, Gregory Cramer and Joshua Hall; her stepgrandchildren, William Young, Randall Ladd, Rebecca Ford and Rhonda Kirkwood; her great-grandchildren, Kerri Van Cleave, Brandi Hall, Troy Webber, Kyra Boots and Gracee Boots; her great-great-grandchildren, Brian Sonner, Ethan Van Cleave, Mason Van Cleave and Ella Van Cleave.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gailard Owen Cramer, in 1971; a grandson, Craig Sonner; and a sister, Patricia Bisschop.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Twelfth St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Memorials are to the Auburn Presbyterian Church music department or organ fund.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

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Jane Deam

AUBURN — Jane J. Peckhart Deam, 59, of Auburn died Friday, May 30, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Deam was a homemaker and a member of the Auburn Moose Lodge.

She was born July 5, 1948, in DeKalb County.

Surviving are a daughter, Tammy Kessler of Auburn; a son, Norman Deam of Auburn; a foster daughter, Tammy Chagoya of Auburn; a sister, Beverly Scheber of Ashley; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert W. Deam; a sister, Linda Sessford, and two brothers, Norman Peckhart Jr. and Donald Peckhart.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to the family of Janet J. Deam.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Maurice Marshall plays with his dog, Bubbles. Marshall planted hundreds of thousands of trees across Steuben County along with his students at Fremont High School.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
June 1 2008

Marshall helped bring trees to Steuben County

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — For nearly 40 years, Maurice Marshall taught Future Farmers of America in northeast Indiana. But another, perhaps more lasting legacy comes in the nearly 1 million trees he helped to plant across Steuben County, his sons said.

Marshall, who served as an agriculture vocational teacher at Fremont and Avilla high schools from 1939-76 died May 25 at age 93.

His son Edward Marshall of Defiance, Ohio, said his father virtually came to the job by accident.

"When he graduated from the University of Illinois in 1939, there weren't any openings in Illinois and the pay was really low," Edward said. "His adviser said he had a couple of leads in Indiana, in Emma and Fremont."

After visiting both places, Marshall preferred Fremont and was hired. His first tenure, however, wasn't too lengthy.

"He left in the spring on '42. Most people figured it was because of the war. The real reason was because he and the principal were good friends who went fishing together," Edward said. "There was a new county superintendent who looked down on principals and teachers fraternizing."

Marshall then spent three years helping on his father's farm, and then was hired to teach at Fremont, where he stayed for 13 years.

Marshall's son Maurice said his father's return to Fremont in 1958 was also by chance.

"He was down at IU as a sponsor for the cheerleaders, who were down there for a workshop, and he saw a friend from Fremont, who knew him when he was there. They told him they wanted him to come back. He came back and went to a basketball game, and there were three members of the school board there, and they asked him to come back, so he did," Maurice said.

As one might expect, teaching vocational agriculture brought with it certain duties related to agriculture, including leading FFA and 4-H clubs. His success actually brought a bit of resentment while he was in Avilla, Maurice said.

"In 1949, they won a FFA judging team trophy. The trophy was so big that they couldn't fit in the trophy case, and they had to build a new case for it. It was always there in the center, and the coaches really didn't like it. Even though they'd won basketball sectional titles, the trophy was bigger than anything they'd won." When Avilla High School was closed, Marshall said, the trophy was saved. It was at the funeral home for Marshall's service on Thursday.

One of the things that stuck with both Marshall sons was the amount of work they, and their father did in planting close to 1 million trees across the county.

"He really enjoyed planting those trees," Edward said. "He planted around Hamilton, Angola and around Crooked Lake."

One man actually had Marshall plant nearly 150,000 trees around his private lake. "When we started planting it was all farmland," Edward said.

Maurice said the planting actually became a way to help his students.

"With the money they made off of those trees they were able to go on trips," he said.

Edward said the economics were simple.

"At that point the trees cost half-a-cent to buy from the state, and you'd sell them for a cent-and-a-half planted. It wasn't much profit, but it financed all those trips to northern Michigan or other places," he said.

Marshall also took on other duties, heading a parliamentary procedure club, the National Honors Society, directed plays and took classes on their senior trips."

Growing up, the Marshalls said, the lessons they learned from their parents, who were married for 65 years, stayed with them. Marshall's wife, Laura, died in 2006.

"They were good with us, but sometimes strict," Edward said. "But at times, you may have asked something and thought they'd say no, and they'd say yes. A lot of the things they did, as I've grown up, I've realized with my own children and grandchildren."

Hermia Arnold

LAGRANGE — Hermia Arnold, 77, of LaGrange died Friday, May 30, 2008, at Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange.

Mrs. Arnold retired from Kraft Foods in 1991 after 25 years of service.

She was a member of Community Baptist Church in Wolcottville. Her hobbies included walking, sewing and quilting.

Mrs. Arnold

She was born in Bevinsville, Ky. on Aug. 11, 1930, to Coy and Rebecca (Calhoun) Johnson.

She married Mason Arnold in Prestonburg, Ky. on Oct. 10, 1947. He died Dec. 22, 1997.

Surviving are five daughters and four sons-in-law; Barbara and Earl Handshoe of LaGrange, Grace and Herb Christlieb of South Milford, Wanda Arnold and her companion, Phil Ross, of Auburn, Lois and David Handshoe of Kendallville and Verna and Brian Roller of Scottsdale, Ariz.; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Harlan and Teresa Arnold of Blackwell, Mo., and Roy Arnold of Michigan City; 27 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; three brothers and sisters-in-law; Bob and Irene Johnson of Homer, Mich., and Winston and Ann Johnson and Arthur and Billie Johnson, all of Neon, Ky.; three sisters and a brother-in-law; Geraldine Martin of LaGrange, Christine Marshall of Yorktown, Va., and Gwendolyn and Bernard Hall of Neon, Ky.; and two daughters-in-law, Martha Arnold of Kendallville and Rita Arnold of South Milford.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Ernest Arnold, in 1997, and Cleburn Arnold, in 1977; a grandchild, Leah Taylor; a great-grandchild, Jessica Arnold Gruenfeldt; three brothers and three sisters.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Community Baptist Church in Wolcottville, with the Rev. Willie Collins and the Rev. Lee Combs officiating. Burial will be at Brushy Chapel Cemetery in LaGrange.

Calling will be Monday after 3 p.m. with an evening service at 7 p.m. at Community Baptist Church.

Hite Funeral Home of Kendallville is handling arrangements.

Condolences may be left at hitefuneralhome.com

Lawrence Jackson

ASHLEY — Lawrence L. "Larry" Jackson, 59, formerly of Ashley, died Tuesday, May 27, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Mr. Jackson was self-employed in the construction business. He was a Vietnam veteran.

He attended St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo. He was a member of the American Legion in Florida, and Fremont Moose No. 2387.

He was born in Garrett on April 12, 1949, to Cecil and Delores (Gaetz) Jackson.

Surviving are a daughter, Michelle Lawrence of Clearwater, Fla.; a son, Micah Jackson of Palm Harbor, Fla.; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Edward and Polly Jackson of Lawrence, Colo., Jerry and Cathy Jackson of Fremont and John Jackson of Ashley; a sister, Rose Marie Grogg of Hudson; and two grandchildren, Michael Lawrence and Hannah Jackson.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Tom Jackson.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo, with the Rev. David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery. Military graveside services will be conducted by Fremont American Legion Post No. 257.

Calling will be Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at Johnson Funeral Home, 612 N. Main St., Hudson, and one hour prior to the service Friday at the church.

Memorials are to masses at the church.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

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Gerald Baker

SPENCERVILLE — Gerald K. Baker, 73, died Saturday morning, May 31, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Baker was a 1952 graduate of Spencerville High School. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Hicksville, Ohio.

He retired from International Harvester at Fort Wayne after 20 years of employment. He also was a painter, a farmer and was employed by Butler Construction Co. He was a past member of the Butler Eagles.

He was born Dec. 31, 1934, at Spencerville to Ralph and Grace (Sponhower) Baker.

He married LaDonna Lothamer on Jan. 2, 1954. She died in 2003.

Surviving are four daughters, Kathy Bailey of Butler, Vickie Johnson of Lake Wells, Fla., Christy Evans of Coldwater, Mich., and Carrie Shetler of Spencerville; a son, Jerry Baker of Spencerville; five grandchildren; a brother, Ralph Baker of Fort Wayne; and two sisters, Joyce Smith and Bette Way, both of New Port Richey, Fla.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Marion Baker.

A memorial service will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Church at Hicksville.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home of Hicksville.

Memorials are to the Hospice of DeKalb County.

Barbara Halsey

ALBION — Barbara Ann Halsey, 74, of Albion died Thursday, May 22, 2008, at her home.

She worked at Tokheim in Albion, Byron Health Center in Fort Wayne, Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Avilla and Central Noble Schools in Albion. She had been the head cook at Albion Apostolic Campgrounds since 1975.

Mrs. Halsey was a charter member of The Church of Jesus Christ, Apostolic, in Albion, where she served as treasurer for more than 50 years.

She was born Oct. 4, 1933, in Kentucky to Hayden and Ethel Logan. She married Elbert J. Halsey in Farmers, Ky., on June 18, 1950. He preceded her in death on April 19, 1992.

Surviving are three daughters and son-in-law, Sherry and the Rev. Benny Archer of Albion, Lisa and the Rev. Casey Jones Jr. of Westmont, Ill., and Dawn and the Rev. Kevin Jones of Albion; a daughter-in-law, Kay Halsey; a sister and brother-in-law, Linda "Lexi" and Tat Rome of Kenner, La.; a brother and sister-in-law, Ivan "Sonny" and Hazel Logan of Morehead, Ky.; nine grandchildren, the Rev. Kevin Archer of Cooper City, Fla., Shay Rowe of Garrett, Marisa Archer of Albion, Josh Halsey of Ligonier, Jeremy Jeremy II of Albion, Nathan Jones of Albion, Danee' Jones of Albion, DeAnna Jones of Albion and Alexander Jones of Westmont; and 10 great-grandchildren, KaLeigh and Kaedon Archer of Cooper City, Fla., Derrick and Alexandria Rowe of Garrett, Alexius, Morgan and Olivia Halsey of Ligonier, and Jeremy II, Ty and Cameron Halsey of Albion.

She also was preceded in death by two sons, Kevin Michael Halsey and the Rev. Steven Elbert Halsey.

Services were May 26 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Apostolic, 1008 E. South St, Albion, with the Rev. Benny L. Archer officiating. Burial was at Sparta Cemetery in Kimmell.

Memorials are to The Church of Jesus Christ, Apostolic, Albion.

Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, was in charge of arrangements.

Sarah Souder

BUTLER — Sarah "Mildred" Souder, 100, died Saturday, May 31, 2008.

She was a member of the Wittenberg Guild and a lifelong member of Zion United Methodist Church. She was known for her sugar cookies

Mrs. Souder

Born to William and Micha (Rickard) Bryant, she resided most of her life in the Butler area.

She married Ralph Souder, and they celebrated their 60th anniversary just one week before his death in 1987.

Surviving are two daughters, Phyllis Jennings of Edgerton, Ohio, and Patricia Kinsey of Garrett; a son and daughter-in-law, William and Linda Souder of Garrett; 22 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Lavon; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; two sisters, Nancy Houck and Connie Skaggs; a brother, Loren Bryant; and a son-in-law, Kenneth Jennings.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Zion United Methodist Church, north of Butler. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-5 and 6-8 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Zion United Methodist Church.

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Goldie Fee

ORLAND — Goldie I. Fee, 89, of Wall Lake near Orland and formerly Edgerton, Ohio, died Monday, June 2, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mrs. Fee

Mrs. Fee was a homemaker.

She was a 1937 graduate of Edgerton High School.

She was born Dec. 2, 1918, in Edgerton, Ohio, to Clifton C. and Maude Mae (Goeltzenleuchter) Deal. She married Herman C. Fee on Dec. 25, 1938, in Butler. He died on Dec. 19, 2007.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Janet and Charles Reamsnyder of West Unity, Ohio, and Irene and Larry Teats of Montpelier, Ohio; a son and daughter-in-law, Herman Jr. and Marilyn Fee of Montpelier; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and five great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Wilma Rutledge.

Graveside services will be Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton, with the Rev. John Pool officiating.

Calling will be private.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to and the online register signed at krillfuneralservice.com.

Richard Crosby Sr.

AUBURN — Richard Crosby Sr., 56, of Auburn died Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at his home.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Crosby was employed at Courier in Kendallville for two years and previously worked at Kraft Foods for five years.

Mr. Crosby Sr.

His hobby was cooking, and he was a fan of the Florida State University Seminoles. He had two pet dogs, Jake and Jasmine.

Surviving are his wife, Debra Crosby of Auburn; two sons, Stephen Crosby of Kendallville and Christopher Crosby of Florida; three sisters, Judy Nash of Dayton, Ohio, Nancy Crosby of Tampa, Fla., and Linda Speece of South Carolina; three brothers, William of Virginia, Tim of Indiana and Tom of Pennsylvania; and his ex-wife, Karen Pebbles of Florida.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Lou Crosby.

There will be no services or calling.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Humane Society.

Shirley McPheeters

GARRETT — Shirley McPheeters, 79, of Garrett died Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. McPheeters worked as a winder at Electric Motors and Specialties of Garrett for 30 years, retiring in 2000.

She attended Garrett Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and Garrett American Legion Auxiliary.

She was born May 28, 1929, in Helmer to Floyd and Dolly Barkey.

On Feb. 24, 1968, in Garrett she married Maurice McPheeters Sr. He survives.

Also surviving are a stepdaughter, Teri McPheeters of Hamilton Lake; a stepson, Maurice McPheeters Jr. of Garrett; a brother, Dale Barkey of Columbia City; and two stepgranddaughters, Rachel Martin and Nicole McPheeters, both of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Jola Rowe; a brother, Warren Barkey; and a sister, Joann Hovater.

Services will be Friday at 1 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Bill Hambright officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

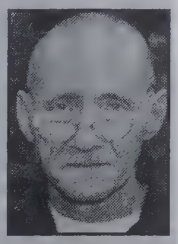
To send a condolence or sign an online register book, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Kenneth Poling

HOWE — Kenneth D. "Tom" Poling, 55, of Howe died at 1:25 a.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at his home following a short battle with cancer.

Mr. Poling had worked at Mastercraft in LaGrange.

He was a Vietnam War veteran.


Mr. Poling

Mr. Poling enjoyed reading about and studying World War II and was a Dallas Cowboys football fan.

He was born May 10, 1953, in Fort Wayne to Glen and Betty (Sweet) Poling. He married Betty Whitlock on Oct. 4, 1997, in LaGrange. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Susan Wilson of Howe and Candra Gose of Wolcottville; a son, Mike Gose of Topeka; a brother, Pete Poling of Auburn; a sister, Marsha Ells of Auburn; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Glenda Poling.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with Chaplain Brain Carsten of Cameron Hospice and Deacon Phil Stewart of Stroh United Baptist Church officiating.

Military rites will be conducted by LaGrange American Legion Post 215.

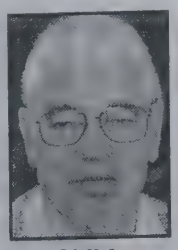
Burial will be at a later date in Greenwood Cemetery in LaGrange.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to Carneyfrost@earthlink.net and a video tribute is available at carneyfrostfuneralhome.com.

Richard Childs

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, Texas — Richard "Dick" William Childs, 70, of North Richland Hills, Texas, and formerly of Auburn, died April 20, 2008.


Mr. Childs

Mr. Childs retired from Dana Corp. of Fort Wayne and Siemens Corp. of Arlington, Texas.

He was a graduate of Ashley High School and graduated with honors from Indiana Vocational Technical College in Fort Wayne.

He was a member of the Good Shepherd Catholic Community of Colleyville, Texas, and Knights of Columbus Council 8512. He was a former member of the Air National Guard at Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Corvette Club, Cowtown Corvette Club of Fort Worth, Texas, and the National Council of Corvette Clubs. He was a former Texas real estate broker.

He was born Nov. 9, 1937, in Kendallville to Herbert K. and Thelma L. (Wright) Childs.

His wife, Mary Sebert, survives in North Richland Hills.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Angela Childs; a daughter and son-in-law, Holly and Walter Busch; three grandchildren, Alexander and Zachary Childs and Walter Adam Busch, all of North Richland Hills; a brother and sister-in-law, Jay B. and Esther Childs of McHenry, Ill.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Jeane and Robert Rhinesmith of San Diego, Calif., and Mary Doom of Evansville; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Corunna Cemetery with the Rev. David Carkenord officiating.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to Lewy Body Dementia (LBDA), P.O. Box 451429, Atlanta, GA 31145-9429.

Delores May

WAWAKA — Delores J. May of Wawaka died at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at the Laurels of Waterloo.

Mrs. May was a homemaker.

She enjoyed reading, music, spending time with her grandchildren and sitting on her front porch.

She was born in Welch, W.Va., to Henry and Berley (Frazer) Harman.

She married Chester May on April 28, 1956. He survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Wayne May of Albion, James May of Kendallville and Ronald May of Brimfield; six grandchildren, Tyson, Jamie, Chris, Gary, Michael and Kayley; seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Bonnie Jackson of Maine.

She was preceded in death by a brother and five sisters.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, with the Rev. Larry Dickson officiating. Burial will be in Orange Township Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR
June 6 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Carl Mettler

AUBURN — Carl D. Mettler, 65, of Auburn died Thursday, June 5, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Mettler worked for Eaton Corp. for 30 years, retiring in 1999.

He was born Feb. 13, 1943, in Wauseon, Ohio.

He married Iva L. Brandon on Feb. 16, 1962, in Pioneer, Ohio, and she survives.

Also surviving are his mother, Eileen (Bordner) Mettler Brandt of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Lisa Mettler of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Roxana Mettler of Pittsford, Mich., Jeanette and Rick Conn of Garrett and Loretta and Ron Walters of Waterloo; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Roy and Christine Mettler of Kissimmee, Fla.; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Beverly and David Norris of Fayetteville, N.C., and Cheryll and Lee Garrett of Phoenix, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his father, Richard A. Mettler.

Services will be Monday at 7 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Mike Wilder officiating.

Calling will be Monday from 1-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Radio museum curator Fred Schultz dies

LIGONIER — Fred M. "Fritz" Schultz, 75, of Ligonier, the founder and manager of WNRL-FM radio in Ligonier, died at 8:23 p.m. Thursday, June 5, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Schultz moved to Ligonier in 1960 from Wheatfield. He worked as a conservation officer for the Jasper-Pulaski County Game Preserve from 1954-1959. From 1960-1980, he worked for the Indiana State Police as a communications officer. He also operated Fritz TV and Indiana Antenna Supply in Ligonier since 1969.

Mr. Schultz was the founder and manager of Ligonier radio station WNRL, 105.9 FM, until the station was recently donated to West Noble High School.

Mr. Schultz was a lifetime member of the Church of Christ in Wheatfield. A licensed ham radio operator since 1954, he was also a member of the Indiana Historical Radio Society, the Michigan Antique Radio Club, the Illinois Antique Radio Club, AWA National Tube Collectors Club and the Indiana State Police Pioneer Association. He had been curator of the Ligonier Historical Radio Museum since 1993 and had served on the board of the Ligonier Visitors Center. He was the 1997 Ligonier Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Schultz

Surviving are his wife, Gladys, of Ligonier; two sons, Michael L. Schultz of Ligonier and Mark A. (Hayley) Schultz of Kendallville; a daughter, Mary A. Schultz of Ligonier; a brother, Gilbert "Tim" (Terry) Schultz; a sister, Norma Schultz Hackney; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Marcella L. Schultz.

Memorial services will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Yeager Funeral Home in Ligonier with Pastor John Lutton officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-6 p.m.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health and Hospice, 1836 Ida Red Road, Kendallville.

Online condolences may be sent to www.yeagerfuneralhome.com.

Former LaGrange Sheriff Donald Pilz dies

LAGRANGE — Former LaGrange County Sheriff Donald L. Pilz, 58, of rural Wolcottville died at 4:43 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, 2008, after suffering a heart attack near LaGrange.

Mr. Pilz served as sheriff from 1975 to 1979.

He was a disabled veteran.

He was a highly-decorated Vietnam War veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Purple Heart Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation. After being wounded three times in combat, he received the Gold Star Award.

Mr. Pilz enjoyed the outdoors, being on the lake and fishing.

He was born April 18, 1950, at Fort Knox, Ky., to Gilbert and Beulah (Turner) Pilz.

Mr. Pilz

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Lee and Melissa Pilz of Wawaka; a daughter and son-in-law, Rigel and Sean Griffith of San Diego, Calif.; three brothers, Charles Johnson of Blanchester, Ohio, and Owen Johnson and Sam Johnson, both of Cincinnati, Ohio; two sisters, Mae Calvin and Shirley Johnson, both of Goshen, Ohio; and two granddaughters, Kayla and Amanda Pilz, both of Wawaka.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with the Rev. Ken Weaver of the First Presbyterian Church in LaGrange officiating. Military rites will be conducted by LaGrange American Legion Post 215.

Cremation will follow, with burial at a later date.

Memorials are to the Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville.

Online condolences may be sent to Carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

Roberta Yowell

AUBURN — Roberta A. Yowell, 62, of Auburn died Friday, June 6, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She operated a forklift at Auburn Foundry for 27 years before retiring in 1999.

She was born Sept. 23, 1945, in Auburn to Remelius L. and Esther M. (Burns) Yowell.

Surviving are a brother, Sheridan L. Yowell of Fort Wayne; a twin sister and brother-in-law, Roeiene E. and Ted Dickson of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Ethel M. and Lyle Freed of Angola; three nephews, John Dickson, Jason Dickson and Richard Yowell; seven nieces, Marie Smith, Deb Wisman, Tami Snyder, Nicole Sholl, Malinda Lilly, Malissa Dickson and Kim Yowell; and 10 great-nephews and great-nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Richard E. Yowell.

Graveside services will be Saturday, June 14, at 10 a.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to the Auburn Dialysis Center.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Eunice Rennecker

AUBURN — Eunice Rennecker, 95, died Friday, June 6, 2008, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Rennecker was a homemaker. She was a member of Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren.

She was born Jan. 9, 1913, in DeKalb County to Ralph and Audry Pearl (Roland) Harding.

She married Harvey Rennecker on March 25, 1950, in Auburn. He died April 4, 2008.

Surviving are a son, Will Rennecker of Auburn; and a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Wilma Harding of Hicksville, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Roland Harding.

Graveside services will be Monday at 1 p.m. in Corunna Cemetery. The Rev. Paul Stauffer will officiate.

Memorials are to the Billy Graham Evangelical Association or Heifer Project International.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

True patriot loved life, people, his country

BY VIV SADE ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Everyone who knew Edward "Ed" Proksa of Auburn knew one thing for certain — Ed was a true patriot.

"He loved people, he loved life and he loved his country," said Carrie Schlink, a longtime neighbor of Ed and Raynell Proksa.

Ed Proksa died May 19 at the age of 86.

Because he was more than 6 feet tall, his daughter, Leslie Proksa of Indianapolis, remembers him as a "John Wayne" figure. Ed Proksa enjoyed taking his family to the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair in Auburn and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival.

Leslie remembers the time she rode a pony at the fair and was thrown off.

"Dad made sure I got right back on, so that I would not be afraid to ride," she said.

When Don Brines and his wife, Jackie, moved to Auburn in 1976, it was Ed and his first wife, Martha "Jane" — who died of cancer in 1988 — who made them fall in love with the community.

"Auburn was typical of most small towns and did not make it easy to get acquainted with the community," Don Brines said. But Brines attended the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Auburn where the couple were welcomed with open arms by Ed and Jane Proksa.

"They got us involved in everything and were instrumental in us liking the community we lived in," Brines said.

Schlink said every time she was out in her yard and Ed saw her, he would stop by and give her a big hug and tell her what great neighbors they were.

Schlink and her husband, Phil, have two sons, Alex, 14, and Benjamin, 8. Ed Proksa gave Alex his first job — mowing lawns — and encouraged the boy in all of his Boy Scout endeavors.

"He told Alex that when he became an Eagle Scout, he would give him his own 1930 Boy Scout knife," Carrie Schlink said.

Ed Proksa was born May 29, 1921, in Chicago to Joseph and Katherine (Surin) Proksa. Three years later, they had another son, George.

Ed and George joined the Navy, and both became pilots during World War II. George was on a training mission off the coast of New Jersey when his plane crash-landed in the Atlantic Ocean. His body was never recovered.

At a Memorial Day service in 2006 in Auburn, where he was the guest speaker, Proksa said he could never hear "Taps" without getting tears in his eyes or thinking of George.

Ed Proksa served 24 years of active duty in the Navy, including during World War II, and reserve duty, retiring in 1977 with the rank of lieutenant commander.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Edward Proksa and his wife, Raynell, are surrounded by family members at a reunion three years ago. Ed, a decorated World War II veteran, died May 19 at the age of 86.

Leslie accompanied her father and Raynell to the dedication of the new World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., on May 29, 2004. It was Ed's 83rd birthday.

"It was a terrific experience, and he loved every moment of that trip," Leslie Proksa said.

Former Auburn Mayor John Foley first met Ed Proksa in 1947, when they both joined the Auburn Jaycees. They remained friends throughout the years, both serving in local government and on the DeKalb County Aviation Board together.

"He was a gentleman and a leader of everything he got involved in," Foley said of Proksa.

Ed was a past president of the DeKalb County Aviation Board, serving on that board for 24 years.

Foley remembers Ed was chairman of the board when the DeKalb County Airport runway was extended to its present length.

"We were there and got the FAA grants to build it up to what is today," Foley said. "Ed loved aviation. He was a very nice guy, and I liked him very much."

Ed earned a living as an agent distributor for Mobil Oil, and his children often would hang out at the Mobil office while their dad was working, Leslie remembers. Ed worked there for 38 years, retiring in 1977.

He and his wife, Jane, had seven daughters, including Leslie, Patricia, Mary Lou, Laura, Betty, Susan and Shawn. After Jane died, Ed later married Raynell Sibery in 1990. She brought two sons to the union, Ross and Rod Sibery. When he died, Ed was the proud grandpa of 19 and great-grandfather of 14.

Many summers the family vacationed at Crystal Lake in Michigan, where Ed was adamant that all of his children learn how to swim.

Wherever he was involved — the Aviation Board, Jaycees, Auburn City Council, Board of Public Works and Safety, Auburn Rotary, Hoosier Warbirds, the American Legion, Scottish Rite, Mizpah or Flying Shriners, Hoosier Warbirds or at a church or family event — Ed Proksa made an indelible impression on all who met him. When he retired, he continued to embrace life through his travels in his recreational vehicle.

"Dad loved the RV life," Leslie Proksa said. "He went on many trips to the east and west coasts, wintering in Florida. He would stop by friend's homes and naval reunions."

As longtime neighbor Carrie Schlink summed up, "Ed loved people, he loved life, and he loved his country."

Rosemary Wolff

BUTLER — Rosemary L . Wolff, 68, of Butler and formerly of Kendallville, died at 8:47 a.m. Friday, June 6, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

She had resided there for three months and previously had been at Shepherd of the Hill in Kendallville.

Mrs. Wolff was a lifetime area resident. She graduated from Kendallville High School in 1957. She managed the Elks Lodge restaurant, worked at the V&A Restaurant in Kendallville and Greenhurst Country Club in Auburn.

She attended the Lutheran church.

She was born Aug. 24, 1939, in Fort Wayne to Carl Sr. and Luzina (Fisher) Rose.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Debra Wainright of Gilbert, S.C., Diana and Mark Boots of Wolcottville and Cindy Pfafman of Avilla; a son, Martin Wolff of Kendallville; five grandchildren, Jessica Rogers, Jenna Ross, Samantha Boots, Michael Wolff and Kenny Pfafman; a brother, Carl Rose Jr. of Kendallville; and several nieces and nephews.

Eleven brothers and sisters preceded her in death.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville with Chaplain Roger W. Olson of Shepherd of the Hill officiating.

There is no calling.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be e-mailed to the family at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

(This obituary is being reprinted with additional information from the funeral home.)

Roberta Yowell

AUBURN — Roberta A. Yowell, 62, of Auburn died Friday, June 6, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She operated a fork lift at Auburn Foundry for 27 years before retiring in 1999.

Surviving are a brother, Sheridan L. Yowell of Fort Wayne; two sisters and brothers-in-law, twin sister Roeiene E. and Ted Dickson of Auburn and Ethel M. and Lyle Freed of Angola; three nephews, John Dickson, Jason Dickson and Richard Yowell; seven nieces, Marie Smith, Deb Wisman, Tami Snyder, Nicole Sholl, Malinda Lilly, Malissa Dickson and Kim Yowell; and 10 great nephews and nieces.

Her parents and a brother, Richard E. Yowell, preceded her in death.

Private family graveside services will be Saturday at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn. Memorials are to the Auburn Dialysis Center, Auburn. Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
June 9 2008 Auburn, Indiana

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being republished to add calling times.*

Stuart Ringler

PLEASANT LAKE — Stuart Earl Ringler, 61, of Pleasant Lake died Saturday, June 7, 2008, at his home.

He was a farmer and owned Blue Cold Refrigeration and Repair, Pleasant Lake. He attended Pleasant Lake Mennonite Church.

On June 18, 1946, in Garrett he was born to Earl and Rowena (Hughes) Ringler. He was married on Aug. 17, 1965, to Donna J. McConahay. She survives.

Also surviving at home is a daughter, Rachel Ringler.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Pleasant Lake Mennonite Church with Pastor Lynn Eicher officiating.

Calling will be today at the church.

Burial will be at Mount Zion Cemetery, Pleasant Lake.

Memorials are to the church.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be emailed to Johnson@bnin.net.

THE EVENING STAR
June 10 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Jeanette Brandt

AUBURN — Jeanette V. (Wiech) Brandt, 97, died Sunday, June 8, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Brandt was born in Jaworzno, Poland. She worked as a clerk with G.C. Murphy for 21 years.

Surviving are six daughters and three sons-in-law, Mary Curtis of Evansville, Wyo., Carol Irmscher of Fort Wayne, Sharon and Jack Mettert of Auburn, Marilyn "Bun" and Bill Mettert and Judith Mettert, all of Fort Wayne, and Nancy and Bob Adams of Union, Ky.; a son and daughter-in-law, Herb and Becky Brandt of Larwill; 19 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Brandt

She was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Raymond R. Brandt; her parents, John and Josephine Wiech; three sons-in-law, Basil Curtis, Max G. Irmscher and Paul Mettert; four sisters, Josephine Plank, Estella Lee, Charlotte Miller and Helen Mills; and a grandson, Terry Lee Torbeck.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne. The Rev. Stuart Kruse will officiate. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be today from 6-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Youth for Christ or Fort Wayne Rescue Mission.

THE EVENING STAR
June 11 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Shirley Lawson

WATERLOO — A memorial service for Shirley Jean (Brand) Lawson, 65, will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Ralph Diehl officiating. A dinner will follow at the church.

Mrs. Lawson

Mrs. Lawson, of Anderson, died Thursday, May 22, 2008, at Community Hospital in Anderson after an extended illness.

Loretta Lash

HAMILTON — Loretta Bernice Lash, 80, of Hamilton and formerly of Kendallville, died Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at the DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Lash was employed by Essex in Kendallville and Ligonier for 27 years, retiring in 1990.

Mrs. Lash

She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville and the Women of the Moose Chapter 730. Mrs. Lash was an avid supporter of Hamilton academic and athletic teams, earning her the title of "Favorite Ticket Taker" by the staff. She was also an avid gardener.

She was born July 14, 1927, in New Ulm, Minn., to George and Ida (Stuber) Suess. She married Carroll A. Lash on Feb. 26, 1949, in Temple, Texas. He preceded her in death on June 30, 1991.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Gloria Lash of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Tom Stackhouse of Hamilton; four grandchildren and two spouses, Lori Desormeaux, Brian Lash, Joseph Lash and Jeremy Stackhouse; three great-grandchildren, Joshua Desormeaux and Audrey Lash; and a sister, Ordella Korte of El Paso, Texas, and a goddaughter, Barbara Laux of Minneapolis.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home & Crematory in Hamilton, with the Rev. Carlton Reinhard officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Hamilton High School Literacy Fund.

Condolences may be sent to the family or the online guest book may be signed by visiting oberlin-ford.com.

Truman Mayberry

CORUNNA — Truman Mayberry, 75, of Corunna died Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at his home, with his family by his side.

Mr. Mayberry was an engine tester at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 27 years. He also farmed, before retiring in 2000.

He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church of Corunna. He was a corporal in the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean conflict. He was a former member of the Jaycees and pitched in fast-pitch softball leagues around the area until he was 50.

He was born July 9, 1932, in Humphreys County, Tenn., to Wyley and Ollie Irene (Warren) Mayberry.

He married Carol A. Bauer on April 3, 1987, in Elkhart. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael T. and Stephanie Mayberry and Mark A. and Suzi Mayberry, all of Corunna; a stepson and daughter-in-law, Travis S. and Dawn Kaylor of Hicksville, Ohio; a stepdaughter, Michelle L. Kaylor of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren, Megan, Caitlin, Christian and Hannah Mayberry and Gunner and Gage R. Kaylor; and two great-grandchildren, ZaRyant "Bubby" and Reianah Maree Mayberry.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Clay Mayberry and Clint C. Mayberry; and three sisters, Asline Lomax, Oneida Williams and Mattie Jean Aylor.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church of Corunna. The Rev. Al Wingfield will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery of rural Corunna.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Leukemia Society of America or the DeKalb County Humane Society.

Michael Smith

BUTLER — Michael Gene Smith, 55, of Butler died Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Smith had worked for Rods in Butler. He was a graduate of Eastside High School in the class of 1971. He then attended the Wyoming Technical Institute.

He was born Jan. 23, 1953, in Rochester to Joe and Zola (Bradley) Smith. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives.

Also surviving are one brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Cathy Smith; two nieces; and several cousins.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Sycamore Cemetery in rural Rochester.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
June 13 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Justin Todd

GARRETT — A burial service for Justin DeWayne Todd, 19, of Garrett will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Sedan Cemetery on C.R. 19, east of Corunna.

Mr. Todd died Sunday, June 8, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services were conducted Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett.

To sign an online guest book or send a condolence, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
June 15 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Mr. Krull enjoyed the dance of life

BY BOB BRALEY
bobb@kpcnews.net

ROME CITY — Gerhard Krull was a man who understood the dance of life in all its rhythms.

"He loved music and he loved to dance," said Linda Castle, one of Krull's granddaughters.

When Mr. Krull died June 4 at age 99, he left behind a legacy of love with family and friends and an understanding of God's creation.

He loved the beauty of nature, from watching hummingbirds to seeing the leaves on the trees mature as the seasons danced on, said one of his daughters, Mary Edwards.

A native of Lorup, Germany, Mr. Krull came to America in 1930, said another daughter, Barb Tatman. His move had been arranged through an uncle who was a priest of the Most Precious Blood order based at Rome City. He had no money and spoke no English at the time, she said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Gerhard Krull, front and center, is shown at the family celebration of his 99th birthday Jan. 2.

In a 2001 interview with The News-Sun, Mr. Krull recalled that had lived with his uncle at the time. There was a worldwide depression going on. "Times were rough here in America, too," he said.

But Krull had a marketable skill. In the late 1920s and 1930s, Germany was teaching farming techniques that were advanced compared to those in America, Krull recalled.

Those techniques were invaluable to farm operations at Kneipp Springs — now Sylvan Springs, then a Rome City sanitorium run by Most Precious Blood sisters.

On New Year's Day, 1936, Krull was selected as the farm manager for the sanitorium, a post he held until he retired in 1975.

His knowledge of farm breeding led him to develop a herd of Guernsey dairy cattle at Kneipp Springs that came to be nationally recognized for both its quantity and quality of milk, Edwards said. "People came from all over to observe his herd, including J.C. Penney, who purchased several of his cows."

Mr. Krull's grandson Mike Edwards said in a 2001 interview with The News-Sun that McDonald's co-founder Jim McDonald was at the same auction. McDonald used his own farm and cattle to make food for his restaurants until he sold the business to Ray Kroc.

The FFA dairy judging team used to come to Kneipp Springs for judging practice because the cattle were so uniform, Mary Edwards said.

He was a hard worker who would do anything to help the community, Tatman said.

But Mr. Krull wasn't all work. He and his wife of 47 years, Helena, were part of the PTA. In a variety show one year, they and three other couples did a square dance. "They loved the Red Birds," Edwards recalled.

As the family grew with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Mr. Krull started a tradition of a family Easter egg hunt on the farm, Castle recalled.

He never forgot his roots and never lost his accent, Edwards said. "He made several trips back to his homeland." Those included trips in 1960 and 1984.

During World War II, Mr. Krull would box up clothing to send to suffering family members back in Germany, and put sugar, flour and cigarettes in with the clothes, Edwards said.

He was also a man who followed his faith's lead. "Gerhard Krull was a true disciple of Christ," Edwards said. "We learned what a privilege it is to be an heir of Jesus Christ."

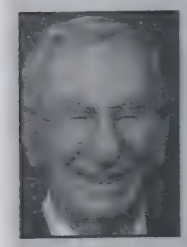
He always spoke kindly of everyone, Edwards said. "We don't remember hearing anything but good about other people."

"He was a very gracious man," Castle said. "He said thank you for everything." That was shown in a letter he sent the Kneipp Springs sisters thanking them, and even during his time at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, when he thanked the workers there for their efforts.

Even then, he still loved to dance, Castle said. She and her husband, Ben, took him to a New Year's Eve event when he was 97. There was a band.

David Miller

AUBURN — David E. Miller, 80, of Auburn died Sunday, June 15, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.


Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller worked as a machinist for Rieke Corp. for 22 years, retiring in 1992. In his retirement, he enjoyed working at Eckhart Public Library and Ben Davis Automotive.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn and was a former elder. He had been a private first class in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving during World War II, and was a member of American Legion Post 97 of Auburn. He was a graduate of Auburn High School, class of 1945.

He was born Dec. 14, 1927, in DeKalb County to Joe and Mary E. (Clouse) Miller.

He married Ruth Arnos on Jan. 27, 1950, in Stryker, Ohio. She survives.

Als surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Randy Miller and Denise Schubert; three daughters and sons-in-law, Nancy S. and Bill McLaughlin of Pittsburgh, Pa., Sandra K. and Michael Kramer of Zionsville and Lisa and Mark Sutton of Zionsville; a daughter-in-law, Betty Miller; six grandchildren, Kelly Kue, Tracey Schwartz, Nick Kramer, Abby Kramer, Jill Sutton and Keegan Sutton; three great-grandchildren, Katie Kue, Austin Kue and Peyton Schwartz; and one sister and brother-in-law, Joanne L. and Jim Fitch of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by one son, David Scott Miller; one grandchild, Sean McLaughlin; two brothers, Richard K. Miller and Donald W. Miller; and two sisters, Lela Rathert and Helen Huntsman.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Lloyd Bickel will officiate., Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

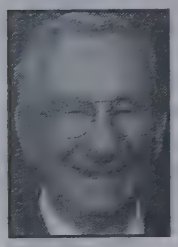
Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church or the American Brain Tumor Association.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct a typographical error.*

David Miller

AUBURN — David E. Miller, 80, of Auburn died Sunday, June 15, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Miller worked as a machinist for Rieke Corp. for 22 years, retiring in 1992. In his retirement, he worked at Eckhart Public Library and Ben Davis Automotive and traveled. His hobbies were racing and big band music.



Mr. Miller

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn and was a former elder. He had been a private first class in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving during World War II, and was a member of American Legion Post 97 of Auburn. He was a graduate of Auburn High School, class of 1945.

He was born Dec. 14, 1927, in DeKalb County to Joe and Mary E. (Clouse) Miller.

He married Ruth Arnos on Jan. 27, 1950, in Stryker, Ohio. She survives.

Als surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Randy Miller and Denise Schubert; three daughters and sons-in-law, Nancy S. and Bill McLaughlin of Pittsburgh, Pa., Sandra K. and Michael Kramer of Zionsville and Lisa and Mark Sutton of Zionsville; a daughter-in-law, Betty Miller; six grandchildren, Kelly Kuc, Tracey Schwartz, Nick Kramer, Abby Kramer, Jill Sutton and Keegan Sutton; three great-grandchildren, Katie Kuc, Austin Kuc and Peyton Schwartz; and one sister and brother-in-law, Joanne L. and Jim Fitch of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by one son, David Scott Miller; one grandchild, Sean McLaughlin; two brothers, Richard K. Miller and Donald W. Miller; and two sisters, Lela Rathert and Helen Huntsman.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Lloyd Bickel will officiate., Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church or the American Brain Tumor Association.

Harrison Triplett

AVILLA — Harrison Triplett, 70, of Avilla died Monday, June 16, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Triplett

Mr. Triplett had been employed with Auburn Gear in Auburn as a machine operator for 27 years before retiring in 1996.

He also was a life insurance agent with American Family Life Insurance and owned Peddlers Shirt & Gift Shop in Kendallville.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Patrick and Leza Triplett with the U.S. Army and stationed in Hawaii, David and Kari Triplett of Vincennes and Michael and Trissa Triplett of Vincennes; a daughter, Kathlene Triplett of Avilla; eight grandchildren; a brother, Carson Triplett of Mrytle Beach, S.C.; and two sisters, Victoria Gaspar and Sue Goris, both of Kendallville.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

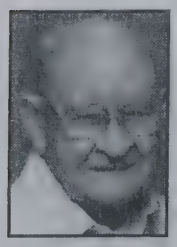
Memorials are to the family in care of Hite Funeral Home.

Send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
June 17 2008

Melvin Lawson

CORUNNA — Melvin Lawson, 95, of Corunna died Monday, June 16, 2008, at his home with his family at his side.



Mr. Lawson

Mr. Lawson had been a coal miner in Kentucky for 13 years. He was also a farmer and was employed by Kendallville Foundry from 1950 until his retirement in 1975.

He was a member of the Mt. Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh.

Mr. Lawson's hobbies were taking care of his yard, gardening, working in his workshop, fixing mowers and building trailers.

He was born May 12, 1913, in Rockfork, Knott County, Ky., to Alex and Zelia (Baldridge) Lawson. He married Dora Perkins on Jan. 20, 1940, in Garrett, Ky. She preceded him in death March 11, 2002.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Phyllis and Clifford Hunter of Kendallville, Nancy Kay Slone of Corunna and Pastor Yvonne and Darold Brown of Garrett; three sons and daughters-in-law, Delmas Ray and Ramona Lawson of Dayton, Ohio, Darvin and Gayleen Lawson of Garrett and Billy and Wanda Lawson of Kendallville; 21 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Sue Lawson of Garrett.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Clarence Edward Lawson; a brother, Cephas Collins; and a sister, Clara Young.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Harbor Of Love Baptist Church, S.R. 3 South, with the Rev. Willie Collins and the Rev. Lee Combs officiating. Burial will be at South Milford Cemetery in South Milford. Pallbearers will be Jerry Hunter, Jason Lawson, Greg Slone, Brian Slone, Shane Slone, Jeremy Slone, Steven Slone, Tivis Molina and Matt Molina.

Calling will be after 3 p.m. Wednesday at the church, with an evening service at 7.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
June 18 2008

Beverly Gordon

CROMWELL — Beverly J. (Romine) Gordon, 62, a resident of Knapp Lake died at 12:10 a.m. Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. She had been in failing health for nearly eight months.

Mrs. Gordon

Mrs. Gordon had moved to Knapp Lake in 1999. She had previously lived in Garrett and in St. Paris, Ohio.

She had been employed as a nurse's aid at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett, had worked as a waitress and cook at the Top Hat Restaurant in St. Paris, and for 14 years she worked as a teacher's aide for disabled children with the Fort Wayne Community School System.

She was a 1964 graduate of Churubusco High School.

Mrs. Gordon enjoyed collecting turtles and watching the wildlife at Knapp Lake. She also enjoyed spending time with her family.

She was born Oct. 25, 1945, in Kendallville to Leo E. and Edith M. (Clouse) Romine. She married Allen C. Gordon on April 6, 1965. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Timothy and Gail Gordon of St. Paris, Ohio, and Petty Officer 1st Class Terry Gordon of Virginia Beach, Va.; a daughter and son-in-law, Tammi and Rex Durst of St. Paris; her mother, Edith Romine of Churubusco; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda and John Barrett of Churubusco and Bonita and Steve Abshire of Columbia City; seven grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her father on July 7, 1979.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with the Revs. Christine and Paul Newman-Jacobs officiating.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday and one hour prior to services Thursday.

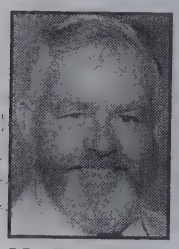
Memorials are to the Churubusco American Legion Post 157, 115 S. Main St., Churubusco, IN 46723 or to the American Diabetes Association, 7363 E. 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219.

Condolences may be sent to the family at sheetsandchilds.net.

Larry Brunson

FORT WAYNE — Larry M. Brunson, 72, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Brunson worked at NIPSCO in Fort Wayne for 39 years, retiring in 1994. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict. He was a member of the 6 Mile Horseshoe League. His hobbies included fishing and bowling, and he bowled for 40 years in area leagues.



Mr. Brunson

He was born Feb. 21, 1936, in Fort Wayne to Ray and Opal (Forrest) Brunson. They preceded him in death.

He married Barbara A. Milks on Aug. 4, 1956, in Fort Wayne, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Char Brunson of Auburn; a daughter, Lisa Biggins of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Jacob and Jennifer Biggins and Grace and Hannah Brunson; a brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Marilu Brunson of Fort Wayne; and a sister, Rebecca Ambrose of Columbia City.

He was preceded in death by seven brothers, Vaughn, Darrell, Hugh, Forrest, Garth, Ray and Leigh Brunson.

A memorial service will be Monday at 7 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Calling will be Monday from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Paul Fish

FORT WAYNE — Paul C. Fish, 88, died Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Fish worked at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 30 years, retiring in 1976. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served in World War II, where he was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Mr. Fish

He was a member of American Legion Post 47 in Fort Wayne, Concord Masonic Lodge 556 and the Fort Wayne Radio Club as K9LSA.

He was born Dec. 24, 1919, in Hartford, Tenn., to Dr. Charles Roscoe and Emily (Price) Fish.

He married Marguerite Dixon on Oct. 6, 1945, in Fort Wayne. She died April 30, 1978.

He then married Luisa Finau on Jan. 25, 1982, in Key Largo, Fla., and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Dr. Karen Griggs of Ashley and Rita Bailey of Auburn; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Darrell Fish and his fiancee, Janice Fleger of Fort Wayne, Warren and Mary Fish of Greenfield and Dwight and Oxana Fish of Elkhart; a stepson and his wife, Joe and Brandie Fish of Auburn; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Carl Fish of Cosby, Tenn., and J.R. Fish of Newport, Tenn.; and three sisters, Beula Wilde of Arden, N.C., Ruth Banks of Danridge, Tenn., and Allene Fish of Madisonville, Tenn.

He was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Robert Griggs; two grandchildren, Melisa Bailey and Benjamin Fish; three brothers, Richard, Troy and Fred Fish; and two sisters, Viola Kidd and Waneta Brown.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, with military honors by the Fort Wayne American Legion Post 47.

Calling will be Friday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home, with a Masonic service at 8 p.m. conducted by Concord Masonic Lodge 556.

Memorials are to Fort Wayne American Legion Post 47.

Jeffrey Best

ELKHART — Jeffrey L. Best, 57, of Elkhart died Tuesday, June 10, 2008, in Elkhart General Hospital.

Mr. Best was a 1968 graduate of Garrett High School and attended Indiana University. He was an engineer at Modineer Co. in Niles, Mich., for five years and had worked at AM General in Mishawaka.

He was a member of the IU Alumni Association and was an IU basketball and Chicago Bears fan and a gardener.

Mr. Best

He was born Nov. 9, 1950, in Garrett to Norman Sr. and Lois (Freeze) Best. His mother preceded him in death, and his father survives in Indianapolis.

Also surviving are a son, Joel Best of Fort Benning, Ga.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jill and Jay Madary of Glen Ellyn, Ill., and Jamye and Kerry Fear of Argos; eight grandchildren; his fiancee, Vicki Tackett of Elkhart; and one brother, Norman Best Jr. of Indianapolis.

Cremation has taken place.

Billings Funeral Home of Elkhart was in charge of arrangements. Pastor David Garty of Living Stone Christian Fellowship Church, Middlebury, officiated at a memorial service.

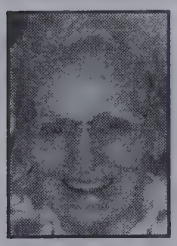
Memorials are to the American Lung Association, 115 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Condolences may be sent to billingsfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
June 19 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Opal Hassett

FREMONT — Opal Ruth Hassett, 87, of Fremont, died Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at Evergreen Manor Nursing Home in Montpelier, Ohio.


Mrs. Hassett

Mrs. Hassett was a homemaker and worked at the Kroger store in Fremont.

She graduated from Fremont High School and was a member of the Fremont American Legion Cassel Post No. 257 Auxiliary. She enjoyed gardening, was the family hairdresser and worked on remodeling projects, including wallpaper hanging.

She was born Oct. 15, 1920, in Quincy, Mich., to Clarence and Anna (Novy) Antrup. She married Adrian Burl "Tug" Hassett on Aug. 20, 1939, in Auburn. He died on Sept. 2, 1991.

She is survived by four daughters, Becky Peters of Camden, Mich., Joan Smith, and Kim Ellen Hassett, both of Cambridge, N.Y., and Pamela Hassett of Tellico Plains, Tenn.; a son, John Charles Hassett of Paw Paw, Mich.; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; three sisters, Annabelle Comstock of Las Cruces, N.M., Donna Budd of Coldwater, Mich., and Shirley Stutz of Fremont; and two brothers, Elsworth Antrup of Mishawaka and Edward Antrup of Pleasant Lake.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Helen Meyers and Jennie Flansburg; two brothers Charles and Lester Antrup, and two grandchildren, David J. and Anna Marie Ryan.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont, with the Rev. Keith Olson officiating. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery in Fremont.

Calling will be Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Lakeside Cemetery Association or the Steuben County Cancer Society.

Esther Coburn

ST. JOE — Esther L. Coburn, 90, of St. Joe, died Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Coburn

Mrs. Coburn was a homemaker. She was a member of the St. Joe Church of Christ and a bunko player, belonging to the St. Joe Bunko Club.

She was born Dec. 23, 1917, in DeKalb County to Romeo E. and Nellie J. (Warner) Richards.

She married Orville "Babe" R. Coburn on Sept. 21, 1938, in Harlan. He died March 18, 2006.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Susie and Lynn Witt of Grabill and Kay L. Zeisloft of Auburn; five grandchildren, Tami Smith, Jenni Boese, Jeff Witt, Jeremy Zeisloft and Sarah Kelley; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; a brother, William Richards of St. Joe; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Ann E. Richards of St. Joe and L. Mae and Walter Ervin of St. Joe.

She was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Bradd C. Zeisloft; a grandson, Michael L. Witt; and a brother, Russell L. Richards.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Northeast Allen Relay for Life.

Joseph Rugman

AUBURN — Joseph L. Rugman, 63, of Auburn died Thursday, June 19, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Rugman

Mr. Rugman worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne for 34 years, retiring in November 1997. He was a 1963 graduate of Garrett High School.

He was a member of the Garrett Church of the Nazarene. He served as president of the historical society in Auburn. He collected antiques and attended flea markets and garage sales.

He was born Nov. 27, 1944, in Auburn to Ralph W. and Belva (Chorpenning) Rugman.

He married his wife, Glenna F., on May 21, 1965, in Garrett. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Shelly and Neil Simmons of Churubusco; a son, Joseph L. Rugman Jr. of Auburn; two grandchildren, Brayden and Kaylee Simmons of Churubusco; four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Nancy Moore of Newville, Bob and Sharron Plummer of Auburn, Bob and Martha Geyer of Spencerville and Merlin and Dawn Bartels of Garrett; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Charles and Anita Carnahan of St. Joe, Ralph Rugman of Garrett and Bruce and Becky Rugman of Auburn; and a stepsister, Sandy Guinn of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a stepfather, Earl Gradeless; four brothers, Ed Carnahan, Bob Rugman, Keith Rugman and Steven Rugman; a stepbrother, Steven Gradeless; a nephew; and two nieces.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a scholarship fund for his grandchildren and to the Friends Cancer Support Group of Auburn.

Ruth Tucker

AUBURN — Ruth Rebecca Tucker, 86, of Auburn died Friday, June 20, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Tucker was the secretary-treasurer at Charleston Metal in Waterloo for many years. She was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

She was born May 13, 1922, in Peru, Ind., to George and Mable (Bartholmew) Freshour.

Mrs. Tucker

She married Howard Raymond Tucker on Dec. 7, 1939, in Largo and he survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, George William and Darlene Tucker of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and George Davis of Auburn; six grandchildren, Christine Rowe, Bill Tucker Jr., Dan Tucker, Kimberly Hall, Adam Davis and Jessica Coulon; and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Freshour.

Services will be Sunday at 6 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Larry Griffith officiating. A private family burial will be at a later date in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

Baby Girl Williams

KENDALLVILLE — Baby Girl Williams, daughter of Rick Davied and Angela Marie (Bolen) Williams, II was born prematurely Thursday, June 19, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn and died a short time later.

Surviving are her parents; three brothers, Noah Williams, Ashton Williams and Trenton Joshua Bolen, all of Kendallville; grandparents, Roger and Kim Bolen of Kendallville and Rick and Lori Williams of Rome City; great-grandparents Al and Marty Pyle of Kendallville and Hakn and Kathleen "Kat" Williams of Rome City; great-great-grandparents Galen and Geraldine Gillenwater of Lisbon, Armelda Ritchie of Rome City and Leona Sage of Kendallville.

Graveside services will take place later at Riverview Cemetery near Churubusco.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online at www.hitefuneral-home.com.

Shirley Washington

FORT WAYNE — Shirley A. Washington, 62, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 10:17 p.m. at her home.

She was born March 22, 1946, to John T. and Mary Belle (Doster) Andrews. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Terry Washington of Fort Wayne, Marcus and Kenzie Washington of Bloomington and Carl and Gail Washington of Durham, N.C.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Michelle and Ken Rose of White Lake, Mich., and Katrina Washington of Saginaw; 21 grandchildren; five sisters, Jeanette Tinsley of New Haven, Leotha Murphy of Bay City, Mich., Cleotha Tinsley and Phyllis Andrews, both of Saginaw, and Violet Bland of Fort Wayne; and a sister-in-law, Claudia Andrews of Fort Wayne.

Ms. Washington

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Raymond E. and Lloyd W. Andrews.

Graveside services will be Monday at 2:30 p.m. in Christian Union Cemetery of rural Garrett, with Pastor Ronald Rutledge officiating.

Calling will be Monday from noon to 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to the Allen County Cancer Society or the Fort Wayne Christian Academy.

To send a condolence or sign an online register book, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
June 22 2008
Auburn, Indiana

Vaughn always there for people

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — When Hal Vaughn died on June 8, family and friends said he was doing what he loved.

Lori Vaughn, Hal's niece, and Betty Moody, a long-time friend of Vaughn, both pointed out that Vaughn had been visiting a niece in Minnesota, and attending a pair of graduations.

"They (his family) were always very important to him," Moody said. "He was actually planning on being in Texas for another graduation."

Lori Vaughn said she remembered her uncle taking her and her sister to their first movie. In the days since Vaughn said she'd heard from many people in Fremont about how they'd just seen her uncle at the grocery store or around town a few days earlier.

"He was just a really good friend to a lot of people, and he loved to be out and about. He loved this community, he loved Fremont and Angola," Lori said.

Steve Vaughn, also of Fremont, lived close to his uncle. "He was somebody who was always there for you. If I ever needed anything, he was there."

Vaughn said his uncle had helped him through some difficult periods, simply by being there.

"He was good counsel. He wouldn't tell you what to do, but he was somebody who'd let you vent it out," he said.

Moody said her friend was just great to be around.

"He was a most enjoyable person. He nearly always had a smile for you," Moody said. "He loved to tell these little stories, but there'd always be a point to them, a reason he would tell them. He was a delight. I don't know anybody who didn't like him."

Vaughn served as a business teacher and vocational director at the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County, retiring in 1989, as well as working at Camden-Frontier Schools in Camden, Mich., and at Four County Vocational Cooperative in Kendallville. Oren Skinner, former MSD superintendent, worked with Vaughn in two separate stints at MSD.

"He was very professional, very open," Skinner said. "He was just a very likable person, there were no strangers with him."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Hal Vaughn was described by his friend Betty Moody, left, as "a most enjoyable person." Vaughn was active as musical director of the Pleasant Lake Lions Club as well as singing in a number of area theatrical productions. With Vaughn and Moody is Mabel Robinette of Fort Wayne. All three were active in the Order of the Eastern Star.

Lori Vaughn, who served as the principal of Fremont Elementary School until last week when she took another post in the district, said she and her uncle both grew up in a family of teachers. Hal, he said, did make his own impression.

"I would say I probably did inherit my passion from him," she said.

Moody, who taught kindergarten at MSD while Vaughn was there, said Vaughn was still treated with respect long after he had retired.

"Still to this day, he was Mr. Vaughn to his former students," Moody said. From his attire to the way his students addressed him, Moody said, he did his best to create that respect.

"He was the kind of person who told you what he thought," she said.

Vaughn was perhaps better known in the community for his work as public address announcer for Angola sporting events, as well as an emcee at the Angola Fourth of July Parade. He also served as a longtime musical director for the Pleasant Lake Lions Club, which puts on an annual minstrel show, and for his work in many area theatrical productions, where he would show off his baritone voice.

"He was extremely honored to be asked to do that (to emcee the Fourth of July Parade)," Vaughn saide. "He loved to be out and about. It was always about music and plays. He really did influence me in that direction. Definitely, music and theater were his passion."

Vaughn said her uncle had saved most every playbill or theatrical program from events he was in

Moody said Vaughn's love of music was something he wasn't shy about sharing.

"He had a beautiful voice. He would sing at church, at weddings for former students," she said.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being republished to correct errors.*

George Schrock

LIGONIER — George E. Schrock, 72, of Ligonier died unexpectedly from an apparent heart attack while working at his farm at 8:44 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

He was a member of Stone's Hill Community Church for over 25 years.

Mr. Schrock retired from Western Rubber after 37 years of service, farmed for the last 27 years and was employed at Maple Crest Country Club.

He was born Aug. 17, 1935, in Elkhart County to Ervin E. and Fannie D. (Miller) Schrock. He married Martha L. Targgart on May 19, 1961. She survives in Ligonier.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Rhonda Schrock of New Paris; one daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Terry Moses of Ligonier; seven grandchildren, David Bailey of Ligonier, Josh Welty, Ryan Schrock, Holly Welty, all of Ligonier, Elizabeth Schrock of Waterloo, Iowa, Derek Schrock and Kari Schrock, both of New Paris; five great-grandchildren; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Albert E. and Maxine Schrock of Illinois and John E. Schrock of Michigan and a sister and brother-in-law, Emma and Larry McClellan of Topeka.

Mr. Schrock

He was preceded in death by a son, Timothy Schrock; his parents and six brothers, David Schrock, Joseph Schrock, Noah Schrock, Jacob Schrock, Earl Schrock and Leo Schrock.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Stone's Hill Community Church with Pastor Joey Nelson officiating. Burial will be in Oak Park Cemetery in Ligonier.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. on Monday at the church.

Memorials are to Stone's Hill Community Church.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at yeagerfuneralhome.com

Julia DeRosa

ANGOLA — Julia Ann DeRosa, 92, of Angola died Friday, June 20, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation in Angola.

Mrs. DeRosa was the co-owner of Louies Sweet Shop. She was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church. She also was a member of Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Rho Chapter, and Angola Women of the Moose.

She was born Oct. 29, 1915, in Garrett to Paul and Rosina (DeRose) Muzzillo. She married Louis DeRosa Jan. 25, 1934. He preceded her in death in 1974.

Surviving are two sons and their spouses, Dr. G. Paul and Mary Ann DeRosa of Durham, N.C., and Anthony and Marda DeRosa of Mishawaka; a daughter, Josephine LaVine of Highland; two brothers, Ben Muzzillo on Winona Lake and Norbert Muzzillo of Avilla; three sisters, Theresa Whitcraft of Winona Lake, Margaret Lung of Garrett, and Mary Spadafore of Ohio; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in death by a grandson, Michael LaVine; two brothers, Martin and James Muzzillo; and three sisters, Virginia DePaolo, Marie Johnson and Jane Muzzillo.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m. at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Dorma Hull

COLUMBIA CITY — Dorma Jean "Jeannie" Hull, 87, of Columbia City died Friday, June 20, 2008, at 2:45 p.m. at Grace Village Retirement Community in Winona Lake.

Mrs. Hull

She was a housewife and mother and had worked at a local factory. She attended Washington Center School in Noble County and graduated from Wolf Lake High School in 1939.

She was born May 23, 1921, in Noble County to Fred and Ruth (Wineland) Stump.

On Sept. 8, 1940, she married Keith A. Hull in Pierceton. He died Dec. 19, 1992.

During the time her husband was in the U.S. Navy, she lived one year in California. She also resided in various parts of the United States, including Auburn, New Buffalo, Mich, Illinois, Wisconsin and in LaPorte for 20 years before returning to Columbia City in 1997.

Surviving are six sons and four daughters-in-law, Larry Lee and Barbara Hull of Warsaw, Richard D. and Norma Hull of Garrett, Paul Hull of West Cavena, Calif., Harry A. and Sandy Hull of Buffalo, Mich., Ronald D. and Mary Hull of Columbia City and Max McKinley of Butler; two daughters and a son-in-law, Peggy and Charles Dorwick of Milan and Nancy Hull; a brother, Dick Stump of Fort Wayne; four sisters, Wanda Murphy of Churubusco, Carol June Hinton of Roanoke, Bonnie Jo Blair of Fort Wayne and Brenda Rock of Columbus, Ohio; 31 foster children; 28 grandchildren; 51 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Paul E. Hargrove and McClellen Lockhard; a sister, Hazel Annadell Darby; a sister-in-law, Virginia Hull; and a brother-in-law, Phil Hull.

Services were today at 11 a.m. at DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home, 600 Countryside Drive, Columbia City. Chaplain Glenn Byers of Grace Village Retirement Village Retirement Community officiated.

Burial was in Stough Cemetery at Columbia City.

Memorials are to Kosciusko Home Care and Hospice at Warsaw or Grace Village at Winona Lake.

To send condolences or sign an online guest book, visit demoneygrimes.com.

Dana Wood

ANGOLA — Dana Renee Wood, 25, of Angola died Friday, June 20, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Dana Wood

She was a stay-at-home mom and had worked at the former Oak Meadows Learning Center in Auburn.

She was born Dec. 15, 1982, in Butler to Nannette (Frank) Wood of Butler and Michael Wood, also of Butler. They survive.

Also surviving are a son and daughter, Emma Noelle Woods and Elijah Nolan Rose; a brother and sister-in-law, Ryan and Karrie Wood of Hamilton; a nephew and a niece; and her grandparents, Jack and Emma Frank of St. Joe, Norma and Bill Johnson of Auburn and Robert and Roberta Wood of North Vernon.

Services will be Wednesday, July 2, at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Scott Miner will officiate.

Calling will be Tuesday, July 1, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday, July 2, from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family to help defray funeral costs or to the Emma Woods and Elijah Rose Trust.

Earl Keller

MONTICELLO — Earl E. Keller, 83, of Monticello died Saturday, June 21, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at the Monticello Assisted Living and Healthcare Center.

Mr. Keller

Mr. Keller was a 1942 graduate of Auburn High School and had lived in the Monticello area since 1994, coming from Chalmer and Brookston. He also had lived in the Corunna, Auburn, Fowler and Attica communities.

He graduated from International Business College in 1942, Kalamazoo College in 1947 and Indiana University in 1950. While attending Kalamazoo College, he played on the men's basketball team.

He was a World War II U.S. Navy veteran, serving as an aviation machinist mate 2nd Class from March 10, 1943, to April 16, 1946. He served as an Indiana State Police trooper for 22 years, retiring in 1972. He served as the White County Sheriff from 1975 to 1982 and was an investigator for the White County Prosecutor's Office. He also served on the White County Council from 1985 to 1994.

He was a member of the Monticello Christian Church and American Legion Post 268 in Chalmers, a life member of the Indiana Sheriffs Association and a Pioneer of the Indiana State Police.

He served as a president of the Indiana Sheriff's Association and also had worked for the association.

He had been attending the Guernsey Church of the Brethren in rural Monticello.

He was born Aug. 18, 1924, in Corunna to Frank Owen Keller and Minnie Catherine Schoup.

He married Roberta Madge Ireland on Feb. 23, 1951, in Monticello. She died Sept. 25, 2006.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Sidonie D. and Lane Inman and Earlene L. and Mike Cunegin, all of Fort Wayne; a son and daughter-in-law, Kurt O. and Kathy Keller of Chalmers; two sisters-in-law, Nada Wiseman of Dayton, Ohio, and Ruth Ann Ireland of Monticello; four grandchildren, Lesli D. Kerfoot of Fort Wayne, Kurtina R. Minglin of Monticello, and Kurt T. Keller and Jason L. Davis, both of Fort Wayne; 15 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Ruth E. and Mary L. Keller.

Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m., in Miller-Roscka Funeral Home, 6368 E. U.S. 24, Monticello, with Dr. Richard McQuinn and the Rev. Lelan D. McReynolds officiating. Burial will be in the IOOF Riverview Cemetery in rural Monticello. Full military rites will be conducted by the Chalmers American Legion Post 268.

Calling will be Thursday from 3-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Indiana Sheriffs Association.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct errors provided to the funeral home.*

Julia DeRosa

ANGOLA — Julia Ann DeRosa, 92, of Angola died Friday, June 20, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabiltation in Angola.

Mrs. DeRosa was the co-owner of Louies Sweet Shop. She was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church. She was also a member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority and Angola Women of the Moose.

She was born on Oct. 29, 1915 in Garrett to Paul and Rosina (DeRose) Muzzillo. She married Louis DeRosa on Jan. 25, 1934. He preceded her in death in 1974.

Surviving are two sons and their spouses, Dr. G. Paul and Mary Ann DeRosa of Durham, N.C., and Anthony and Marda DeRosa of Mishawaka; one daughter, Josephine LaVine of Highland; two brothers, Ben Muzzillo of Winona Lake and Norbert Muzzillo of Avilla; two sisters, Theresa Whitcraft of Winona Lake, and Margaret Lung of Garrett; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a grandson, Michael LaVine; two brothers, Martin and James Muzzillo; and four sisters, Mary Spadafore, Virginia DePaolo, Marie Johnson and Jane Muzzillo.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m. at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Leonard Wolf

UPPER SANDUSKY, Ohio — Leonard E. Wolf, 80, of Upper Sandusky died Sunday, June 22, 2008, at 8:05 a.m. in his residence.

Mr. Wolf was a member of Transfiguration of the Lord Catholic Church. He was a lifelong Marseilles Township grain and livestock farmer. He also worked for the Wyandot County highway garage for 14 years and retired in 1989.

He was a former Marseilles Township trustee and served on the Marseilles Volunteer Fire Department. He spent winters in Florida for 19 years and attended auctions.

He was born Sept. 5, 1927 in Prospect, Ohio, to Leo K. and Evelyn (Moloney) Wolf.

He married Jerolene Stover on Sept. 25, 1948, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in LaRue, Ohio, and she survives.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Robert D. and Carolyn Wolf of Marion, Ohio, Jim E. and Donna Wolf of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and Greg A. and Linda Wolf of Auburn; one daughter and son-in-law, Patricia A. and Gene Troiano of Upper Sandusky; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one brother, Richard Wolf of Marion, Ohio; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Catherine and Dale Linstedt of Marion, Ohio, and Rita Buyer of LaRue, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Joseph Wolf.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in Transfiguration of the Lord Catholic Church, with Father Kent Kaufman officiating. Burial will follow in St. Peter Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m., with a biblical prayer service at 7:30 p.m., in Bringman Clark Funeral Home.

Memorials are to Hospice of Wyandot County or a charity of the donor's choice in care of Bringman Clark Funeral Home, 226 E. Wyandot Ave., Upper Sandusky, OH 43351.

To view a life tribute video, extend a condolence or share a memory, visit bringmanclark.com.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with revised information about service times.*

Dana Wood

ANGOLA — Dana Renee Wood, 25, of Angola died Friday, June 20, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Dana Wood

She was a stay-at-home mom and had worked at the former Oak Meadows Learning Center in Auburn.

She was born Dec. 15, 1982, in Butler to Nannette (Frank) Wood of Butler and Michael Wood, also of Butler. They survive.

Also surviving are a son and daughter, Emma Noelle Woods and Elijah Nolan Rose; a brother and sister-in-law, Ryan and Karrie Wood of Hamilton; a nephew and a niece; and her grandparents, Jack and Emma Frank of St. Joe, Norma and Bill Johnson of Auburn and Robert and Roberta Wood of North Vernon.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Scott Miner will officiate.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family to help defray funeral costs or to the Emma Woods and Elijah Rose Trust.

Oscar Deetz

WATERLOO — Oscar Monroe Deetz, 86, of Waterloo died unexpectedly at his home on Monday, June 23, 2008.

Mr. Deetz farmed in DeKalb County for his entire life, embracing new technology and ideas and developing an outstanding herd of registered Holsteins. He belonged to county, state, and national breed associations for more than 50 years.

Mr. Deetz

Mr. Deetz and his family were named outstanding dairy family of the year in 1995, and he had the outstanding cow of the year in 1996.

He was active in the community, previously as a member of Wayne Center United Methodist Church and more recently as a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church. He served as president of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the 4-H Council. He also served on the Extension Board, Noble County REMC Board, and the DeKalb Mutual Insurance Board. His farm hosted the annual DeKalb Ag Day Tour for many years, allowing hundreds of third-graders in the county to have an agricultural experience. He donated several heifers to the Peace Corps.

He was a fan of sports, especially Chicago Cubs baseball and Purdue basketball. He bowled several times a week and was inducted into the DeKalb Bowling Hall of Fame.

He graduated from Ashley High School in 1940.

He was born April 17, 1922, to Orlo and Martha (Eckert) Deetz.

On June 3, 1945, he married Gloria Fiandt, who survives.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, David and Pat Deetz of Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Stan Deetz of Boulder, Colo., and Randy and Pam Deetz of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Jeff Leiter of Auburn; nine grandchildren, David Deetz, Jason Deetz, Carl Deetz, Ingrid Deetz, Zander Deetz, Roger Deetz, Olivia Deetz, Logan Leiter and Abigail Leiter; one stepgrandchild, Jessica Mehooves; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Peggy.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen and the Rev. Bill Farmer will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Thursday from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Forrest Prince

ROME CITY — Forrest Seymour Prince, 78, of Rome City died at 9:30 a.m. Friday, June 20, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Prince had been an accomplished tool design engineer for several companies including Hughes Aircraft, General Electric and International Harvester. He contributed to creating many industrial patents during his career.

Following his retirement, Mr. Prince served as a volunteer at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

He attended St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

He was born June 30, 1929, in Miami County to Solomon and Edna Prince.

Surviving are his longtime partner, Shirley Croom, and their children and their spouses, David Prince of Fort Wayne, Keturah and Keith Henderson and Dawn and David Steinken, all of Kennesaw, Ga., and Kemuel and Vickie Prince of Rome City; three stepchildren, Duanne Craig of Butler and John Gardner and Kevin Ware, both of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren, Jason Bay and Sara Steinken, both of Kennesaw, Ga., Jennifer Heard of Newnan, Ga., Rachel Prince and Jared Prince, both of Rome City, and Ryan Prince of Phoenix, Ariz.; and a great-grandson, Torin Harrison.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lorena Jean Prince.

Commitment ceremony will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Greenlawn Cemetery in Fort Wayne. A chapel service will be at 2:30 p.m. with Pastor Robert Shriner officiating.

Memorials are to the Parkview Noble Foundation to benefit cancer patients in Noble County.

Klaehn, Fahl & Melton Funeral Home in Fort Wayne is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
June 25 2008

Jerry Strock

BUTLER — Jerry P. Strock, 55, died Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Strock

Mr. Strock worked at Hendrickson Suspension in Kendallville, retiring after 36 years of service. He was a member of the Sons of the Legion in Butler.

He was born March 30, 1953, in Garrett to Fredrick and Virginia (Alwood) Strock.

He married Sherri Whitman on Sept. 25, 1971, in Butler, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Dana Strock of Butler; a brother, Steve Strock of Florida; a sister and brother-in-law Wendy and Bob McAllister of Butler; and two grandchildren, Megan and Erin Strock of Butler.

A memorial service will be Thursday at 6 p.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Eastside girls basketball program.

A video tribute may be viewed at hejohnsonfh.com.

Clara Moreland

HUNTINGTON — Clara "Esther" Sink Moreland, 80, of Huntington, died Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 7:32 p.m. at Parkview Huntington Hospital.

Mrs. Moreland was a homemaker. She was a graduate of Martinsville High School in the class of 1945 and a member of the Huntington First Presbyterian Church. She was a volunteer at the church and worked on election boards in Auburn, serving as precinct vice chairman. Her hobbies were reading, sewing and spending time with her grandchildren.

She was born Feb. 11, 1928, in Morgan County to Gilbert W. and Ruth Smith (Stierwalt) Sink. They preceded her in death.

She married William "Bud" Moreland on Dec. 25, 1948, at the First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville. He survives in Huntington.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Randy G. and Carla Moreland of Greensburg and Ricky C. and Rita Moreland of Nashville, Tenn.; a daughter, Deborah Lynn Fleischman of Los Angeles; a stepson and his wife, Steven G. and Theresa Cordes of Brownsburg; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and a brother, Gary Sink of Huntington.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, David Moreland; five brothers, Raymond, Lee, Kenneth, Keith and Eugene Sink; and two sisters, Christine Rutledge and Evelyn Ritter.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in McElhaney-Hart Funeral Home, 715 N. Jefferson St., Huntington, with the Rev. John Ritchie officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery of Martinsville.

Calling will be Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association, in care of McElhaney-Hart Funeral Home, 715 N. Jefferson St., Huntington, IN 46750.

Condolences may be left at mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com.

Ruth Place

FORT WAYNE — Ruth M. Place, 99, of Fort Wayne died Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in Butler, she was a homemaker and worked at Mr. Wiggs for 14 years, retiring in 1982. Her hobbies were sewing, crocheting and crafts.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Floyd and Carol Place of New Haven; a daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Place-Snyder of Wellsboro, Pa; 13 grandchildren and many great- and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis S. Place, in 1968; a daughter, Mary Lou Minick, in 2000; a son, Frederick Place, in 1974; and two grandsons, Kevin in 1996 and Terry Pennington in 2001.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in D.O. McComb & Son Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road. The Rev. David Troxel will officiate. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

Louis Fell

WATERLOO — Louis E. Fell, 76, of Waterloo died Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Fell worked for Kiser Corp. in Butler for 16 years.

He was born Nov. 10, 1931, in Fort Wayne to Ora and Gara (Notestine) Fell.

He married Martina J. Renfrow on July 18, 1964, in Zanesville. She died Aug. 5, 2004.

Surviving are four sons and two daughters-in-law, Michael and Anita Fell of Fort Wayne, Ronald Fell of Waterloo, Kent and Rebecca Fell of Corunna and Steven Fell of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Gloria and Tim Bice of Waterloo; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Marcella Rupert of Waterloo and Janet Roeger of Fort Wayne; and three brothers, Gerald Fell of Fort Wayne, Bernard Fell of Spencerville and Kenneth Fell of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a son, Kurt Fell, and a grandson, Michael Fell.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Lawrence Fogle

AUBURN — Lawrence W. Fogle, 74, of Auburn and formerly of Fort Wayne died Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Fogle was a machinist for Zollner Pistons for nearly 40 years, retiring in 1988. He was a member of New Life Ministries in Garrett. He had been a volunteer firefighter for Washington Township Fire Department in Fort Wayne for 35 years.

He was born Dec. 16, 1933, in Allen County to Namon and Doris (Williams) Fogle. They preceded him in death.

He married Audrey C. Kitchen on March 15, 1952, and she died March 16, 1996.

He then married Jean Charlotte Chaffins on Oct. 3, 1996, in Albion. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Larry W. and Kate Fogle of Fort Wayne; two daughters and sons-in-law, Becky L. and Scott Fenton of Kansas City, Kan., and Jennifer E. and Lonnie Gilbert of Wolcottville; six grandchildren, Kelly Fogle, Kasey Fogle, David Gilbert, Joshua Gilbert, Matthew Gilbert and Jacob Gilbert; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Namon and MaryAnn Fogle of Valdosta, Ga., and Leslie and Pat Fogle of Fish Lake; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Rose and Danny Stellhorn of Fort Wayne and Karen and Joe Adams of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Karl Fogle.

A memorial service will be Friday at 4 p.m. at New Life Ministries, 130 N. Randolph St., Garrett, with Pastor Lane Andrews and Pastor Kelly Banks officiating.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent and an online guest book may be signed at oberlin-ford.com.

Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home, 206 N. Lynn St., Bryan, Ohio, is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
June 27 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Kathryn Rodeffer

AUBURN — Kathryn Rodeffer, 63, died Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Born in Auburn, She worked in financial services with DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 40 years.

She was a member of Sigma Beta in Auburn and First United Methodist Church of Auburn and was a graduate of Auburn High School.

Surviving are her friends, Paul, Cristelle, Megan, Christopher and Emily Hargarten, all of Auburn; and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Helen Dweese Rodeffer.

Graveside services will be today at 3 p.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Animal Shelter.

Harley McBride

HAMILTON — Harley Ray McBride, 82, of Hamilton died Thursday, June 26, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He worked at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for over 36 years, retiring in 1981.

He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran, and member of the American Legion Post 97 in Auburn, and the Garrett V.F.W. He was a former member of the F.O.E. in Garrett, Loyal Order of the Moose in Auburn, and the Elks in Garrett.

Mr. McBride attended Hamilton United Methodist Church, and enjoyed fishing, playing pool and playing cards.

In Garrett, he was born to Charles and Pearl (Heffelfinger) McBride on April 22, 1926. He married Jacqueline Howard in Waterloo on Aug. 17, 1947. She preceded him in death on Sept. 5, 1985. He then married Janice (Harger) Snyder in Auburn on Oct. 9, 1998. She survives in Hamilton.

Also surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Vicki and Richard Bruner of Angola, Rita and Curt Mason of Coldwater, Mich., and Roxane "Rocky" and Dave Richie of Waterloo; a son and daughter-in-law, Rex and Darlene McBride of Fountain, Colo.; a stepdaughter and her spouse, Amy and Bill Truesdell of Garrett; three stepsons and their spouses, Garry and Judy Snyder of Quincy, Mich., and Randy and Stacy Snyder, and Rodney and Cindy Snyder, all of Angola; a brother and sister-in-law, Wallace Dean and Dora McBride of Butler; 16 grandchildren, Logan and Brook Richie, Eric Bruner, Chad, Brad and Kyle Mason, Devon and Dylan McBride, Brock Dutton, Kelle (Dutton) McNeil, Cassie Snyder, Morgan Snyder, Mackenzie Snyder, Hailee Snyder, Joshua Snyder and Renee Snyder; three great-grandchildren, Nathan and Natalie Bruner, and Bryden McNeil; and a cousin.

Preceding him in death, in addition to his first wife, were five brothers, three sisters and a great-grandson, Connar M. Dutton.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with burial in Waterloo Cemetery. American Legion Post 97 of Auburn will conduct military graveside services.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Fire Department or the donor's choice.

Donald Teegardin

RUDY, Ark. — Donald Wayne Teegardin, 63, of Rudy, Ark., died Monday, June 9, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Teegardin was a U.S. Navy veteran and retired from Rheem Refrigeration in Arkansas.

He was born May 26, 1945, in Garrett to George and Evelyn (Dove) Teegardin.

Surviving are his companion, Joyce Moses; four daughters, Billie Jo Teasley of Cedarville, Ark., Dee Teegardin of Pleasant Lake, Georgie Ann Teegardin of Pleasant Lake and Regina J. Teegardin of Spiro, Okla.; a son, Donald Wayne Teegardin Jr. of Pleasant Lake; two sisters, Patricia Ann Teegardin of Auburn and Carolyn Sue Ward of Iron Station, N.C.; five brothers, Ned Teegardin of Lason, S.C., David Lee Teegardin of Gilbert, Ariz., James Teegardin of Kendallville, Keith Leroy Teegardin of Auburn and Larry Gene Teegardin of Bloomington; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Jane Randinelli

AUBURN — Mary Jane Randinelli, 95, of Auburn died Friday, June 27, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Randinelli was a clerk for the Walgreens Drug Store in Warren, Pa., for 20 years, retiring in 1970. She moved from Warren to Auburn in 1980.

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, a volunteer for DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 20 years, a former member of Greenhurst Country Club and a life member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum.

She was born April 17, 1913, in Auburn to Amos and Harriett (Leasure) Adams.

She married John Randinelli on Sept. 10, 1933. He died March 6, 2001.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, John A. "Jack" and Ruth E. Randinelli of Auburn; two grandchildren, Kari Ackerman and Kim Randinelli; and three great-grandchildren, Autumn Greenwood, Anna Greenwood and Gabriel John Ackerman.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Wilbur Yates will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2–4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Eckhart Public Library or the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Scholarship Fund.

Services were June 16, 2008, at the U.S. National Cemetery, Fort Smith, Ark.

Memorial tributes may be left at lewisfuneralchapel.net.

THE EVENING STAR
June 29 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Wife, mother Souder created sweet, sugar-cookie memories

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net
AND VIV SADE ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mildred and Ralph Souder had this photo taken in 1953. Even though she worked hard on the farm, Mildred was always immaculately attired and never without her trademark earrings and lipstick.

GARRETT — Sarah "Mildred" Souder was a woman with a pioneer spirit — a true Christian who lived by example.

For more than 100 years Mildred chose to live in DeKalb County — and spent 60 of those years married to the same man. A hard-working, independent farm wife who gave her three children an idyllic upbringing, she left an indelible mark when she died Saturday, May 31, 2008.

Mildred's life began in a log home north of Butler when she was born Nov. 25, 1907, to William and Micha Bryant.

As a young girl, Mildred walked to attend school in a one-room, hard-scrabble schoolhouse. When it snowed, her father took the children to school in a horse-drawn sleigh.

When she was 20, she married Ralph Souder.

Mildred and Ralph lived on a big farm north of Butler, where they raised two daughters and a son — Pat Kinsey and Bill Souder, both of Garrett, and Phyllis Jennings of Edgerton, Ohio. Mildred called her husband "Skeeter" or "Pa." Ralph called Mildred "Ma."

It was during the Depression, and times were tough. Mildred made her own clothes, as well as her young daughters' outfits, from grain sacks she washed and sewed. She tended a big garden, raised chickens, drove tractors — and always had a fresh batch of sugar cookies from the oven.

Bill Souder remembers when he was a young boy during a snow storm, a carload of teenage boys got stranded on the county road near the Souder homestead. Ralph saw them walking on the roadside and yelled at them to come to the house. Without a second thought, Mildred and Ralph offered the boys food, beds and shelter for the night.

Mildred had her share of heartbreak, as well. She lost a son, Lavon, as well as four grandchildren.

Neighbors and friends came over on Sunday afternoons for rounds of baseball in a field Ralph set up in the barnyard. Mildred loved having kids around, and hosted [illegible] for church youth groups.

"She was a farm wife, but dad insisted she be wearing earrings and lipstick when he came out of the field," Pat Kinsey said. "She always did, because it was important to him."

On their 25th anniversary, neighbors gave them a "belling" to celebrate the occasion. Well-wishers rattled disks from farm machinery, rang bells and used shotguns to make noise. The couple were wheeled down the streets of Edgerton, Ohio, in a wheelbarrow to make the day even more memorable.

Mildred and Ralph enjoyed fishing at Hamilton and Silver lakes, where they kept a trailer. Later in life, they traveled to Florida and Arizona with best friends Ernie and Florence Janke.

Mildred was the oldest member of Zion United Methodist Church and one of eight remaining members of the Wittenberg Guild, a group known for its willingness to help neighbors in need. During World War II, the group sent care packages for soldiers.

For decades, Ralph was seen in the pews only on Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas. Mildred never nagged, she just continued to attend every Sunday with her children in tow.

Mildred often invited the pastor and his wife over for dinner. One night, after dinner, Ralph and the pastor took a walk outside in the garden.

Ralph asked how he could bring God into his life and enjoy the kind of faith his wife had. The pastor said, "Just ask."

The next Sunday Ralph got dressed for church, which surprised his family, since it wasn't any of the three "holidays" when Ralph normally chose to attend.

The pastor announced an "altar call." When Ralph got up and walked to the front of the church and knelt down, the entire congregation took notice. One by one, every single member of the church went forward to kneel with him, including his family. He died eight years later in 1987.

Following Ralph's death, a family member purchased the farm, and a trailer was set up on the property so Mildred could remain nearby.

It was during this time Mildred displayed the beginning signs of Alzheimer's disease. She then alternated her stays with her three children, but the change of surroundings proved even more confusing as the Alzheimer's progressed.

Mildred resided for 11 years before her death in Miller's Merry Manor of Garrett, where, Kinsey said, "a strong faith in God carried her through."

At her 100th birthday in November, samples of Mildred's trademark sugar cookies from a batch made some 15 years ago were on display. Many of Mildred's 19 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren attended the event.

Kinsey tells how the disease ravaged her mother's body and mind so that, in the last weeks of her life, she could no longer get nourishment because she had forgotten how to swallow. Mildred had not been able to speak for some time before that.

One night, Kinsey was sitting by the bed as she often did, putting a water-soaked sponge on a stick in her mother's mouth "so she could get some water without choking," she said. Mildred did something just hours before her death that astounded her daughter.

"She suddenly reached out into the air with both hands as if to grab something," Kinsey said. "Her lips and tongue were moving as though she were trying to say something. I remarked how strange that was — she had never done that before."

But Mildred's nurse and a hospice nurse were not at all surprised.

"Both nurses told me they had been with people in the last days or hours before their death, and it was common for them to speak the names of deceased relatives or friends and reach out like mom did," Kinsey said.

That thought comforts Kinsey and her family.

"I do believe she was reaching out to someone she knew," Pat Kinsey said. "I like to think she was reaching out and saying, 'OK Pa, here I am.'"

This obituary is being reprinted to clarify memorial information.

Mary Jane Randinelli

AUBURN — Mary Jane Randinelli, 95, of Auburn died Friday, June 27, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Randinelli was a clerk for the Walgreens Drug Store in Warren, Pa., for 20 years, retiring in 1970. She moved from Warren to Auburn in 1980.

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, a volunteer for DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 20 years, a former member of Greenhurst Country Club and a life member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum.

She was born April 17, 1913, in Auburn to Amos and Harriett (Leasure) Adams.

She married John Randinelli on Sept. 10, 1933. He died March 6, 2001.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, John A. "Jack" and Ruth E. Randinelli of Auburn; two grandchildren, Kari Ackerman and Kim Randinelli; and three great-grandchildren, Autumn Greenwood, Anna Greenwood and Gabriel John Ackerman.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Wilbur Yates will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2–4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Eckhart Public Library Foundation or the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Scholarship Fund.

THE EVENING STAR
June 30 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Dennis McMinn

AUBURN — Dennis C. McMinn, 54, of Auburn died Friday, June 27, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Born Jan. 10, 1954, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he worked as a printing press mechanic at Courier Printing for four years. He had been a member of the U.S. Army Rangers.

Surviving are his mother, Ethel McMinn of Murphy, N.C.; two sons, Dyan McMinn of Auburn and Ian McMinn of Hogansville, Ga.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Cecelia Driscoll of New York and Elizabeth and Matthew Dunn of LaGrange, Ga.; three sisters, Kathleen Duncan of Pennsylvania, Eileen McMinn of Nebraska and Patricia McMinn-Higgins of Murphy, N.C.; a granddaughter, Serenity Dunn of LaGrange, Ga.; and a cousin.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Billy McMinn.

There will be no services or calling. McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Retha Ruger

LAOTTO — Retha J. Ruger, 75, of LaOtto died unexpectedly Monday, June 30, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Ruger

Mrs. Ruger was a homemaker and a secretary at Mutual Security in Fort Wayne. She was a member of the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren and Ladies Aid and a volunteer at St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Martin's Healthcare.

She was born Oct. 18, 1932, in Waterloo to Charles B. and Florence V. (Hanson) Bloom.

She married Jack V. Ruger on March 29, 1958, at Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren in rural Garrett. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Tammy and Tom Stafford of LaOtto; a son and daughter-in-law, Brent and Debi Ruger of Pleasant Lake; a brother, Gordon Bloom of Kendallville; two grandsons, Jake and Nick Stafford of LaOtto; and a granddaughter, Rachel Stafford of LaOtto.

She was preceded in death by a son, Joel Ruger; a daughter, Deanna Ruger; and an infant brother.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren in rural Garrett. Pastor Brad Hardesty will officiate. Burial will be at a later date in Cedar Creek Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 68, Garrett, and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Healthcare and Heifer International.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Dennis Parker

AUBURN — Dennis M. Parker, 60, of Auburn died Monday, June 30, 2008, at 12:03 a.m. at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana in Fort Wayne after a brief illness.

Mr. Parker

Mr. Parker was a material handler for Foamex Inc., in Auburn for the past nine years. Prior to working for Foamex, he worked for Kmart Corp., retiring after 32 years of service.

He was born March 17, 1948, in Van Wert, Ohio, to Donald and Wilma (Bartz) Parker. They preceded him in death.

He married Kathleen Bradfield on June 19, 1999, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Brent Parker of McNeal, Ariz., and Daniel and Taya Parker of Monroeville; two daughters and a son-in-law, Helena and Bob Zimmerman of Monroeville and Dianna Norris of Auburn; four brothers and a sister-in-law, Larry and Janet Parker of Decatur and Donny Parker, Jerry Parker and Jan Parker, all of Monroeville; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Karen Parker.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Zwick and Jahn Funeral Home, Jacobs Chapel, Monroeville. Burial will be in Monroeville Memorial Cemetery. Military graveside services will be conducted by American Legion Post 420 of Monroeville.

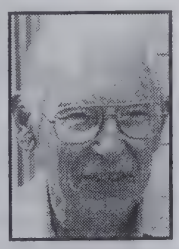
Calling will be Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to South Bend Children's Oncology.

To sign an online guest book, visit zwickjahn.com.

Paul Mutzfeld

BUTLER — A celebration of life service for Paul B. Mutzfeld will be Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in Butler United Methodist Church. Pastors Kevin Marsh and Maurice Bonecutter will officiate.


Mr. Mutzfeld

Calling will be Saturday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the church.

Mr. Mutzfeld, 100, died Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at Wesley Healthcare of Auburn.

Mr. Mutzfeld operated the movie projector for the Butler Theatre and worked for the Indiana State Highway Department, Higley Press, Butler Lumber Co. and Mold Service of Butler. He served as Butler's city clerk-treasurer for 12 years.

He was a Butler High School graduate, a member of the Butler United Methodist Church and a former member of the Butler Lions Club. He served on the board of directors for the Heimach Center and for the Butler Public Library, and delivered Meals on Wheels for several years.

He was born Sept. 23, 1907, in Butler to Eli and Sada (Sawvel) Mutzfeld.

He married Mareta Bonecutter on June 1, 1939, in Gary. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Belva and Sidney Meyer of Auburn and Lorna and Craig Atz of Ligonier; one son and daughter-in-law, Earl and Deborah Mutzfeld of Hamilton; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Wayland Mutzfeld; two sisters, Mabel Steckley and Ruth Swain; and a daughter-in-law, Shirley Mutzfeld.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church or Butler Library Building Fund.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at hejohnsonfh.com.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct an error in an address.*

Retha Ruger

LAOTTO — Retha J. Ruger, 75, of LaOtto died unexpectedly Monday, June 30, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Ruger

Mrs. Ruger was a homemaker and a secretary at Mutual Security in Fort Wayne. She was a member of the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren and Ladies Aid and a volunteer at St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Martin's Healthcare.

She was born Oct. 18, 1932, in Waterloo to Charles B. and Florence V. (Hanson) Bloom.

She married Jack V. Ruger on March 29, 1958, at the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren in rural Garrett. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Tammy and Tom Stafford of LaOtto; a son and daughter-in-law, Brent and Debi Ruger of Pleasant Lake; a brother, Gordon Bloom of Kendallville; two grandsons, Jake and Nick Stafford of LaOtto; and a granddaughter, Rachel Stafford of LaOtto.

She was preceded in death by a son, Joel Ruger; a daughter, Deanna Ruger; and an infant brother.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren in rural Garrett. Pastor Brad Hardesty will officiate. Burial will be at a later date in Cedar Creek Cemetery.

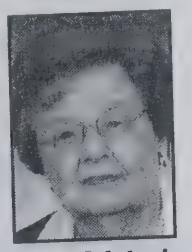
Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Healthcare and Heifer International.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Margaret McIntosh

WATERLOO — Margaret Ann McIntosh, 92, of Waterloo died Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at her home.


Mrs. McIntosh

Mrs. McIntosh taught second and third grades at Waterloo School for 34 years before retiring in 1978. She was a member of the Minerva Club, Retired Teachers Association and Waterloo United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Wednesday's 9 a.m. Bible Study Club at her church. She served as the church organist for many years and as director and assistant director of the choir for 35 years.

She was born Feb. 1, 1916, in Upland to the Rev. Lester and Jessie (Hesher) Wisner. They preceded her in death.

She married Vernon Ned McIntosh on Oct. 11, 1941, in Russiaville. He died April 12, 1998.

Surviving are two grandchildren, Jesse Garrett and Mackenzie Garrett, both of Waterloo.

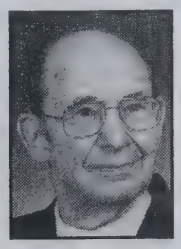
She was preceded in death by a daughter, Ann Garrett; and a brother, Robert L. Wisner.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in the Waterloo United Methodist Church with the Rev. David Mathews officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at the church.

Ed Wandel

HUDSON — Edward "Ed" L. Wandel, 85, of Hudson died Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.


Mr. Wandel

Mr. Wandel worked as a machine operator at Warner Gear in Auburn, retiring in 1979. He was a member of Waterloo United Methodist Church.

He was born July 3, 1922, in Edon, Ohio, to Fred G. and Marie (Durr) Wandel.

He married Eva E. Kessler on June 24, 1950, in Hudson and she died Feb. 18, 1991.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and Kris Hendrickson of Butler; and two grandchildren, Amy Hendrickson Lung of Auburn and Ryan Hendrickson of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Howard H. Wandel, and two sisters, Aileen Dodds and Alice Hoellrich.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Calling will be Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or Betz Nursing Home.

Marco Ulbrich

SHANGHAI, China — Marco Tantalean Ulbrich, 16, died March 29, 2008, in a jet-ski accident in Hainan, China.

He was born in California on May 9, 1991, to Marc Pierre Ulbrich and Irene Tantalean Ulbrich, who are currently residing in Shanghai, China, and in Ashley during the summer months.

Mr. Ulbrich attended Country Meadow Elementary School, DeKalb Middle School, Taejeon Christian International School in Korea and Concordia International School in Shanghai.

Surviving with his parents are a brother, Karl Tantalean Ulbrich, and a sister, Nina Tantalean Ulbrich, also living in Shanghai; and his grandparents, Karl and Marie-Helene Ulbrich of Las Vegas, Nev., and Guillermo and Zarela Tantalean of Lima, Peru.

Graveside services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo. Father David Carkenord will officiate.

Memorials are to Head of School's Office (Yunnan Education Project) at Concordia International School Shanghai, 999 Mingyue Road, Jinqiao, Pudong, Shanghai, 201206 China.

THE EVENING STAR
July 8 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Clarissa Furnish

AUBURN — Clarissa M. Furnish, 94, died Monday morning, July 7, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Furnish worked for many years as a waitress at the Leo Cafe. She was a member of Crossview Church in Grabill.

She was born June 7, 1914, in Ohio to David and Lillie (Gerig) Rediger.

She married Charles A. Furnish on Feb. 23, 1952, in southern Indiana. He died Jan. 8, 2003.

Surviving are a niece and her husband, Yvonne and Don Clark of Fort Wayne.

A memorial service will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at Crossview Church in Grabill, with Pastor Don Roth officiating.

Memorials are to Crossview Church, 13313 Indiana St., Grabill, IN 46741.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
July 6 2008 Auburn, Indiana

She was Angola's link to the past

Julia DeRosa ran popular sweet shop

BY ASHTON SIMMONS
asimmons@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Angola lost a link to its past when Julia DeRosa died June 20.

DeRosa opened Louie's Sweet Shop on the Public Square with her husband, Louis DeRosa, in spring of 1948.

"It's where all the high school and college students would go to listen to the jukebox, hang out and eat candy," said Fran VanWagner, who worked at the sweet shop and also was a friend of DeRosa.

Mrs. DeRosa

VanWagner said DeRosa and her husband would make the candy in the basement of the shop.

"She handled all of the candy we made," said her daughter, Josephine LaVine. "She did all the dipping of the individual chocolates."

The shop was located near Angola State Bank, now City Hall.

"Everybody just felt like family when they went up to the sweet shop," said VanWagner.

LaVine said the shop closed in the summer of 1953, and the family moved to a farm where Menards is now located. After some years, the family bought Louie's Shoe Repair on Maumee Street.

LaVine also remembers that DeRosa was a "wonderful seamstress."

"She did all of my formal dresses," she said. LaVine said DeRosa had crocheted afghans for all of her 10 grandchildren, and had made a "beautiful bedspread" for her.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Louis and Julia DeRosa, owners of the former Louie's Sweet Shop.

She also complimented her mother's pies.

"She was a terrific cook," LaVine said. "She never measured anything."

Her brother, Norbert Muzzillo, said DeRosa was one of the oldest of 11 children, all born and raised in Garrett by Paul and Rosina Muzzillo.

"I enjoyed her," he said. "I very much enjoyed her."

DeRosa was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church for 60 years. She was also active in the Altar and Rosary Society of the church.

"She would wash and take care of the altar linens," said LaVine.

DeRosa moved to Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in December 1999. Linn Crover, director of nursing, said DeRosa needed only minimal help and took care of most things herself.

"She took care of herself until the end," she said.

Mary Mangus, a nurse who worked with DeRosa, agreed.

"She was always well groomed, wearing full make-up and perfume," she said.

Crover remembers DeRosa as a "great lady" who "never complained."

"Everyone who took care of her noted how much of a lady she was," she said.

Ronald Beard

BUTLER — Ronald D. Beard, 56, of rural Butler died early Tuesday, July 8, 2008, at his daughter's home in Spencerville after a brief illness.

He was a 1972 graduate of Eastside High School and was employed as a truck driver with Heidtman Steel and Mizar Motors.

Mr. Beard

Mr. Beard was a member of the Coburn Corners Church of Christ near St. Joe and was a former member of the Concord Fire Department and DeKalb EMS.

He was born Feb. 1, 1952, in Garrett to Donald R. and Betty J. (Groff) Beard.

He married Martha J. Kagey on June 23, 1973, at Coburn Corners. She died June 28, 2006.

Survived are his children and their spouses, Laura Beard and Kathy J. Fisher of Auburn, Tim and Tara Beard, of Lexington, S.C., and Alicia and Michael Graves, of Spencerville; and six grandchildren, T.J. Beard, Travis Beard, Katie and Ethan Graves, Bradley Palone and Samantha Fisher.

A celebration of life service will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Coburn Corners Church of Christ, with Pastor Brian Wilcox officiating. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton, Ohio.

Calling will be Friday from 1-3 and 6-8 p.m. at Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Parkview Cancer Services.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

Lynda Nicholson

AUBURN — Lynda Lee (Platt) Nicholson, 46, died Monday, July 7, 2008, at her home in Auburn.

Born in Columbia City, she was a district manager with The Evening Star for five years. She currently was employed in the door division at Therma-Tru in Butler.

Linda Nicholson

She graduated in 1980 from Fremont High School, where she was a cheerleader.

Surviving are her parents, Rex and Sharon Platt of Angola; a son, Clint James Nicholson of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Marla Platt of Churubusco; and two sisters, Di Ann Putnam of Angola and Christine Rose Vandervelde of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dustyn Laisure, in 2002.

A memorial service will be Thursday at 6 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Pastor Bill Campbell will officiate.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a scholarship fund for Clint James Nicholson at Wells Fargo Bank, 812 W. Seventh St., Auburn, IN 46706.

Eleanor Middleton

BUTLER — Eleanor M. Middleton, 79, of Butler died Tuesday, July 8, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Middleton had lived in the Nappanee and Elkhart area all of her life before moving to the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

She had worked as a waitress at Ozzie's in Nappanee and had attended Nappanee schools.

She was born Oct. 6, 1928, in Nappanee to William O. and Dorothy Mae (Holderman) Keifer.

She married Billy Ray Middleton in 1973, and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Kim and Seth Chizem of Golden, Colo., and Crystal Cook of Butler; four sons and a daughter-in-law, Melvin Dean of Grand Rapids, Mich., Frank and Lori Dean of Arroyo Grande, Calif., Joe Dean of Butler and Van Toupence of Golden; a stepdaughter, Donna Middleton of Indianapolis; a stepson, Billy Middleton of Indiana; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Virgil and Marilyn Keifer and William Keifer, all of Kalamazoo, Mich.; four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Geraldine Zimmerman of Boonville, Willodene and Marvin Schrock of Avon Park, Fla., Loretta and Ray Skelton of Syracuse and Barbara and Chuck Amdeo of Goshen; 18 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and many stepgrandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a stepson, Scott Middleton; a stepdaughter, Melody Middleton; two brothers, Kenneth and Ernest Keifer; and a sister, Betty Grove.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in Thompson-Lengacher & Yoder Funeral Home, 950 N. Main St., Nappanee. Burial will be in Union Center Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Eleanor Middleton Memorial Fund.

Virgie Turner-Handshoe

GARRETT — Virgie Turner-Handshoe, 83, of Garrett died Tuesday July 8, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Turner-Handshoe

She was a homemaker and attended different churches throughout her lifetime.

She was born March 17, 1925, in Handshoe, Ky., to Newton and Sally Ann (Patrick) Moore.

She married Robert Turner on July 5, 1957, in Angola. He died Oct. 30, 1997.

Surviving are five sons and daughters-in-law, Carl and Mary Ellen Huff of Butler, Vallis and Virginia Huff of Sciotoville, Ohio, Com and Joann Huff of Raven, Ky., Richard and Kelli Turner of Auburn and Joe and Geneva Turner of Garrett; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Sally Turner of Auburn, Darlene Daley and Kip Baird of Auburn and Lila Joyce and David Boltz of Garrett; 38 grandchildren; 63 great grandchildren; and 15 great great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one son; Jesse Turner; one sister, Lois Huff; one brother, Richard Moore; and several half-brothers and half-sisters.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Jim Lillie will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or to Friends Table in care of Auburn Presbyterian Church.

THE EVENING STAR
July 12 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Annette Bowman

FORT WAYNE — Annette Kay Bowman, 47, of Fort Wayne died Friday, July 11, 2008, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

She worked as a conference coordinator for Conference and Travel Services of Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Bowman was a member of the Fort Wayne Jaycees where she was director and community development vice president. She was also the first woman in the club to receive the Wally Award.

She was born June 15, 1961, in Auburn to Dave and Ruth (Friend) Walters. They survive in Auburn. She married Jeff Bowman on May 20, 1989, at the Auburn First United Methodist Church Chapel. He survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are a daughter, Danielle Bowman, at home; two stepdaughters, Tisha Bowman of Portland, Ore., and Tandy Bowman of Fort Wayne; and a brother, Ed Walters of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Susie Bishop, on Feb. 27, 2007.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Auburn First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ted Jansen and the Rev. O. Dale Williams officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 4-9 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn and one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday.

In lieu of flowers the family asks memorials be directed to the Danielle Bowman Educational Fund.

THE EVENING STAR
July 13 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Bus driver, mother touched lives

BY VIV SADE ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

"We can do no great things, only small things with great love."
— Mother Teresa

Growing up was hard for Austin Saurbeck. He was filled with pain and rage. He sometimes acted out. As a result, he could no longer attend Hamilton Community Schools and was enrolled in the special education department at Angola High School. He was in eighth grade when he met his new bus driver, Elaina Marie Henderson.

By his own admission, Saurbeck was constantly in trouble. But Elaina did not kick him off the bus, as he thought she would. She saw potential in the troubled young boy. She reached out to him at a time when no one else did.

"She changed my life," Saurbeck said.

Elaina died May 24 of a malignant brain tumor. She was 53 years old.

She married her childhood sweetheart, Ray Henderson, when she was 18 years old. When she died, they had just celebrated 36 years together. Ray and Elaina had four children, Ray Jr., Joseph, Mark and Wendy, as well as seven grandchildren.

One of Elaina's greatest joys was playing and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

In her spare time, Elaina liked to go fishing or work in her yard and garden.

The only girl among three brothers, Elaina was born to Lewis and Blanche Keller Messman in Auburn on Dec. 1, 1954.

In addition to operating a home and raising her family in Angola, Elaina worked for a while at the Head Start program in Waterloo, but she found her true calling when she took a job driving a bus for Children First Center, where she stayed for 10 years, and most recently for Northeast Indiana Special Education Cooperative.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Elaina Henderson was not only a bus driver, but a person who took the time to care and make a difference in the lives of children and adults with whom she came in contact every day.

Elaina Henderson became a friend, a mentor and a motivator — not only for her own children and grandchildren — but for the many children who climbed aboard her bus every weekday.

Randy Marshall, pastor of the Community Church of the Nazarene in Angola, where the Hendersons attended church, chose the word "family" to describe Elaina Henderson.

"Family was not so much determined by bloodline with Elaina," Marshall said. "It was defined by her love. If she extended love to you — and she did it often, to many, many people — you were family."

"Whether Elaina was taking care of Grandma Messman during her illnesses, making a little extra dinner so that neighbor children could eat at the Henderson table, or mentoring the very special children she picked up on her school bus route every day, Elaina was always extending the love in her heart to her extended family," Marshall said.

Austin Saurbeck was just one child in Elaina's extended family. But he knew firsthand of Elaina's love and compassion.

"I found myself eagerly awaiting the arrival of the bus each day," he said. "We shared laughs and tears and all sorts of discussions. Elaina had a tremendous impact on me, as I'm positive she has had on many others."

"I thank God for her presence in my life."

Barbara Wurm

AUBURN — Barbara W. (Walters) Wurm, 74, of Auburn died Saturday, July 12, 2008, in Auburn.

She was a foster parent for 25 years, retiring in 1995. She bowled for 32 years with the Tuesday Morning Coffee League at the Auburn Recreation Center. She was a member of Life Bridge Church in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Wurm

She graduated from Burnham High School in Sylvania, Ohio, in 1951. She lived with Vince and Beverly Thelander during her high school years.

She was born Oct. 8, 1933, in Auburn to Harold and Vera (Fisher) Walters.

Surviving are six daughters and two sons-in-law, Gary and Beverly Messman of Maui, Hawaii, Valerie of Fort Wayne, Leslie Cearbaugh of Auburn, Paula and Wil Lipp of Fort Wayne, Barbie J. Wurm of Auburn and Roberta Wurm of Fort Wayne; four sons, Wayne Sumner of Waterloo, Joseph A. Sumner of Avilla, Adam J. Wurm of Kendallville and Paul Wurm of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Patty Walters of Ware Shoals, S.C.; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Virginia and Tom Simons of Kendallville and Janet "Jan" and Jim Foreman of Fort Wayne; a foster sister, Joan Thelander of Arizona; foster brothers, Robert and Bill Thelander of Arizona; nine grandchildren, Luke Messman, Jessi Messman, Danielle Deam, Jessica Sumner, Alex Sumner, Tabitha Sumner and A.J., Chad and John Neuenschwander; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul R. Wurm; a brother, Keith D. Walters; and a sister, LaVera Walters.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Pastor Bill Campbell will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana and DeKalb Hospice.

Howard Dias

WATERLOO — Howard E. Dias, 59, of Waterloo died Saturday, July 12, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn after a 19-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Dias was the owner and operator of Waterloo Standard for 28 years, retiring in 2007. He was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church. His hobbies included target shooting, hunting and racing.

He was born Feb. 21, 1949, in Celina, Ohio, to Dale and Viola (King) Dias.

He married Neva Lee Watson in the Waterloo United Methodist Church on May 8, 1971. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Greg T. and Christina Dias of Garrett; two grandchildren, Blaine Dias and Madison Dias; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Dale Jr. and Sheryl Dias of Cridersville, Ohio, Bill and Mimi Dias of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Raymond and Sandy McCollum of Fayetteville, N.C.; one sister and brother-in-law, Janet and Dale Pratt of Van Wert, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Phil McCollum; and three sisters, Shirley Linser, Carolyn Kochie and Barb Miller.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne, Waterloo. The Rev. David Mathews will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family or a charity of the donor's choice.

Wilma Rodocker-Schamerloh

COLUMBIA CITY — Wilma Vacie (Rutherford) Rodocker-Schamerloh, 85, of Columbia City died from a stroke Sunday, July 6, 2008, at 5:35 a.m.

She attended Spencerville High School and spent her lifetime in Huntington and DeKalb counties, Hicksville, Ohio, Fort Wayne, and the past five years at Miller's Merry Manor in Columbia City. She was a seamstress and drapery maker. She volunteered at the Allen County Public Library in the Genealogy Department.

She was born Sept. 9, 1922, in Huntington County to William Henry Rutherford and Mary Forney (Pugh) Rutherford.

Mrs. Rodocker-Schamerloh

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Robert C. and Nina Rodocker of Columbia City; a daughter, Carma J. Lucatero of Denver, Colo.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Nona R. and Harold Harris of Huntington and Lou Ann Brown of Richmond, Va.; a brother and sister-in-law, Thomas N. and LuAnn Rutherford of New Haven; seven grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, William Rodocker and Arthur Schamerloh; a sister, Lois F. Fisher; and a brother, William H. Rutherford.

A graveside service will be Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 11 a.m. 2008, in Decatur Cemetery at Decatur, with the Rev. Michael Courtney officiating.

Memorials are to Gideons International or Lighthouse Free Methodist Building Fund.

DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home of Columbia City is handling arrangements. To send condolences or sign a guest register book, visit demoneygrimes.com.

Tracy Kretz

WATERLOO — Tracy Philip Kretz, 47, died Sunday, July 13, 2008, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Kretz was a sales consultant for Allied Mineral of Columbus, Ohio. He was a member of the Auburn Elks Lodge and attended the Fairview Missionary Church in Angola.

Mr. Kretz

He was born March 7, 1961, in Auburn to Charles Fredrick and Mary Ann (Quance) Kretz. His father is deceased, and his mother survives in Auburn.

He married Marla Hayward on June 6, 1981, in Auburn and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Brandy and Adam Miller of Angola and Nikki Kretz and her fiance, Troy Weimer of Auburn; a grandson, Conner Lee Weimer; a brother and sister-in-law, Todd and Kathy Kretz of Angola; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Cindy and John Morningstar of Auburn and Charlene and Sean Scanlon of Waterloo.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at Auburn First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Norm Fuller officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Memorials are to Serenity House or DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Jessie Hoff

AUBURN — Jessie E. Hoff, 87, of Auburn died Monday, July 14, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

She worked and retired as a secretary at Warner Gear in Auburn. She was a member of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Auburn. Upon retirement, she worked as church secretary at St. Mark's, volunteered at the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Gift Shop, made thousands of hand-crocheted baby hats that were given to every newborn at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and volunteered at a preschool. Her hobby was fishing with a cane pole and bobber.

She was born Feb. 4, 1921, in Toledo, Ohio, to Lee A. and Helen (McGraw) Harroun.

She married Russell A. Hoff Sr. in November 1946, in Toledo. He died in September 1979.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Russ and Barb Hoff of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Rich Nicholson of Walton, Ky.; four grandchildren, Alison Hoff, Ryan Hoff, Chris Nicholson and Toni Nicholson; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Wiswosser.

There will be no services or calling. Burial will be in the Woodlawn Cemetery at Toledo.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814, the DeKalb County Council on Aging or St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Auburn.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Catherine Albert

GARRETT — Catherine Eldeen Albert, 89, of Garrett died Monday, July 14, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Albert worked for 10 years as a clerk at Sterns Clothing Co. in Garrett, then worked 12 years as the head of the trust department at Indiana Bank before retiring in 1990.

She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ. She volunteered at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Golden Years Nursing Home in Woodburn and Miller's Merry Manor, where she was named volunteer of the year.

She was born Nov. 27, 1918, in Otterbein to Earl and Alma (Dawson) Stetler.

She married Arthur Fred Albert on July 19, 1939. He died June 22, 1989.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Art E. and Carol Albert of Auburn and Tim N. and Sandi Albert of Garrett; eight grandchildren, Rick Albert, Michelle Taulbee, Joy Randol, Rebecca Wilkins, April Albert, Olivia Augsteine, Cheyenne McBride and Ezekiel Albert; and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, John Stetler, and three sisters, Marvel Wagner, Alma Grace Narrava and Eileen Gibbon.

Services will be Monday, July 28, at 2 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Wayne Smith will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Christian School.

Russell Obendorf

BUTLER — Russell E. Obendorf, 83, of Butler died Tuesday morning, July 15, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Obendorf worked for Hendrickson Tandem in Butler for 33 years, retiring in 1989. He was a charter member of the Butler Eagles, and his hobby was watching the birds and wildlife in the woods next to his home.

He was born July 31, 1924, near Butler to Frank and Ethel (Green) Obendorf.

His first wife, Anna Alwood, died Sept. 2, 1990.

He married Ruth Webb on July 31, 2002, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son, Rex Obendorf of Angola; three stepsons, Jim Harter of Edgerton, Ohio, Lloyd Webb of Spencerville and Jerry Webb of Butler; two stepdaughters, Marilee Dangler of Orland and Sharon Urban of New Mexico; three brothers, Robert of Auburn, Allen of Montpelier and Richard of Butler; two sisters, Ruby Gruver of Edgerton, Ohio, and Helen Whitman of Auburn; two granddaughters, Megan and Kelley Obendorf, both of Fremont; 12 stepgrandchildren; and nine stepgreat-grandchildren.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with Pastor Paul A. Patton of the Butler Church of the Nazarene officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

A guest book may be signed at hejohnsonfh.com.

Donald McCreary

NORTH PIERCETON — Donald McCreary, 40, of Pierceton died Monday, July 14, 2008, at 7:20 p.m. at Kosciusko Community Hospital in Warsaw.

Mr. McCreary worked in the maintenance department for Maple Leaf Farms at Milford. He was a resident of Kosciusko County for 20 years.

He was born Jan. 7, 1968, in Wyandotte, Mich., to Ralph E. and Marilyn (Delimater) Canter McCreary. His mother survives in Pierceton.

Also surviving are two sisters and brothers-in-law, Sandra and Barry Smith of Auburn and Christina and Robert Lewis of Ligonier; a brother and sister-in-law, Charlie and Bonnie McCreary of Syracuse; his grandmother, Dorothy Delimater of Pierceton; two nieces and a nephew.

He was preceded in death by his father and his stepfather.

A private memorial service and private burial will take place.

Memorials are to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Tri-County Fish and WIldlife Preserve, 8432 N. 800 E., Syracuse, IN 46567.

To sign a guestbook, visit mchattonsadlerfuneralchapel.com.

McHatton-Sadler Funeral Chapel, 2290 Provident Court, Warsaw, is handling arrangements.

Rev. Arthur Ferry

GARRETT — The Rev. Arthur G. Ferry Jr., 69, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Garrett, died Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at 7:45 a.m. at Canterbury Nursing and Rehabilitation in Fort Wayne.

He graduated from Brazil High School and Trinity Theological Seminary. He was a personnel manager at CBS in Terre Haute before becoming a pastor. He ministered at Woodville Baptist, Williams Baptist and New Winchester First Baptist churches and most recently at Garrett First Baptist Church from 1991 until 2003.

He had been a foster parent for more than 100 children since 1992. His passions were NASCAR and the Chicago Cubs. He was a member of the Garrett Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star and was a former board member of the Ministerial Association of Garrett.

He was born Aug. 13, 1938, in Brazil, Ind., to Arthur G. Ferry Sr. and Helen (Howard) Ferry.

He married Anna Louise Ashby on May 28, 1959, in Brazil, Ind. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are two sons, Scott A. Ferry of Belleview, Neb., and William J. Ferry of Fort Wayne; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Lori A. and Ted Gamboe of Hooker, Okla., Christine N. and Travis Gaar of Garrett and Tasha R. Ferry of Wabash; eight grandchildren; a brother, the Rev. David Ferry of Bedford; and a sister, Judith Ferry of Brazil, Ind.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Garrett, with the Rev. David Ferry of Bedford First Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be at a later date.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to the First Baptist Church of Garrett or the American Heart Association.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Beulah Hire

ANGOLA — Beulah M. (Wing) Hire, 85, died Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at Northern Lakes Healthcare & Rehabilitation in Angola.

Mrs. Hire

Mrs. Hire was the owner of Hire's Restaurant in North Manchester.

She was born in Waterloo and was a 1941 graduate of Waterloo High School. Her hobbies were gardening and cooking.

Surviving are a son and his companion, Kirk Hire and Dar Watson of Hudson; two daughters and sons-in-law, Toby and Ted Walter of Fremont and Nanci and Nelson Drudge of Columbia City; four grandchildren, Angie Schemahorn of Fremont, Amy Price of Fort Wayne, Josh Frantz of San Diego, Calif., and Erick Watson of Waterloo; three great-grandchildren, Jake and Nick Price and Thor Schemahorn, all of Fremont; two brothers, Rodney Wing of Garden City, Mich., and Bill "Toby" Wing of Inverness, Fla.; and a sister, Anna Lee Eberly of Waterloo.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Jack E. Hire, in 2002; her parents, Delford and Mary Wing; three brothers, Paul, Wayland and Walter Wing; and five sisters, Cleo Knott, Mildred Arnold, Vivian Morgan, Pauline Kuhn and Ruth Grimm.

Services will be Saturday at noon in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in the Waterloo Memorial Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon at the funeral home.

Lunch will be served after the service at the Fairfield Township Community Center.

THE EVENING STAR
July 17 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Noah Myers

AVILLA — Noah David Myers, 3 weeks and 6 days, died Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis following complications at birth.

He was born in Fort Wayne on June 19, 2008, to Hugh Lee and Misti Mae (Appleman) Myers of Avilla.

Surviving with his parents are maternal grandparents, Cheryl and Jerry Harter of Kendallville; paternal grandparents, Theresa and Ethan Myers of Auburn; maternal great-grandmother, Inez Blake of Avilla; and paternal great-grandmother, Alice Henderson of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, David Appleman in 2003.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with the Rev. John Scott officiating.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Misti and Hugh Myers to assist them with expenses.

Send condolences to the family at hitefuneral-home.com.

THE EVENING STAR
July 18 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Howard Carper

AUBURN — Howard F. Carper, 90, of Auburn died Thursday, July 17, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

He was an automobile mechanic and worked at the former Auburn Cord Duesenberg Co. He then owned and operated Carper Service for over 20 years, doing mechanical work on automobiles before retiring in 1979. He was a member of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Auburn.

He was born Sept. 9, 1917, in DeKalb County to Earl and Mary (Weeks) Carper.

He married Maxine E. Garwood on May 1, 1943, in Gary, and she survives.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Paul A. and Beverly Carper of Winchester, Calif., Keith L. Carper of Waterloo and Larry D. Carper of Auburn; five grandchildren, Shelly Oswalt, Michael Carper, Jody Carper, Tanya Belna and Jennifer Griffith; six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Arthur Carper of Pleasant Lake and John Carper of Waterloo; and a sister, Harriet Myers of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Martelle Rhodes and Leone Christlieb.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Dr. Robert Craig will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Heimach Center.

Mary VanHorne

AUBURN — Mary Kathryn Grant VanHorne, 101, died Thursday, July 17, 2008, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. VanHorne

She was born April 9, 1907, in Columbia City to the late Otto E. (Sr.) and Maude (Widup) Grant.

She graduated from Albion High School in 1923 as valedictorian and then graduated from Indiana University. She taught Latin, English, algebra and physical education at Columbia City High School and mathematics at Franklin School in Fort Wayne. In 1949, she and her husband, Winslow, moved from Indianapolis to Auburn.

She was a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church and a founding member of P.E.O. Sorority. She belonged to Kappa Delta Sorority, the Ladies Literary Club, several bridge clubs including ABCL, the YMCA and the former Greenhurst Country Club.

She was a volunteer at the Auburn Cord Duesenburg Museum and DeKalb Memorial Hospital, where she delivered mail to patients on Fridays from the time the hospital opened until late in her life.

In 1975 she became a real estate broker and held her license and sold real estate for 24years.

She married Winslow VanHorne on Feb. 1, 1936, in her mother's home in Fort Wayne. He died Oct. 13, 1989.

Surviving are a son, Grant VanHorne of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Tom Fischer of Auburn; six grandchildren, Clara Mary VanHorne Winebrenner, John VanHorne, Charles VanHorne, Tom Fischer, Tim Fischer and Laura Fischer Companion; six great-grandchildren and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Andrea VanHorne; a grandson, James Michael Fischer; and a brother and sister-in-law, Otto and Martha Grant.

Services will be Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Chaplain Tom Novy will officiate. Burial will be Sunday at 4:30 p.m. at Greenhill Cemetery in Columbia City.

Memorials are to Auburn First United Methodist Church and DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

THE EVENING STAR
July 20 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Bontrager worked hard in community

BY TIFFANY YODER
tiffanyy@kpcnews.net

GOSHEN — Some people can't seem to manage to take some time to slow down.

According to Katie Bontrager, her late husband, Ora C. Bontrager, was one. Over his years, he served as manager for Tools Unlimited in Honeyville, president of the Shipshewana Town Board, owner and operator of Bontrager Plumbing and Heating and Bontrager Hardware, a bus driver for the Westview School Corp. and a farmer. He also was named as the Shipshewana Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award winner in 1998.

"He was a workaholic," Katie said with a smile. "He always kept himself busy."

Ora died on Sunday, June 15, at Greencroft Health Care Center, Goshen, after an extended illness. A longtime resident of Shipshewana, his death came after a lifetime of hard work and achievement. During his 85 years, he worked hard to help make his local community a better place.

While serving as the Shipshewana Town Board's president, Bontrager was instrumental in getting the first sewer system installed in town. He and J.D. Hostetler had lobbied hard to get what they saw as an important for the community, Bontrager's wife said.

"He wanted it so bad," she said of his lobbying for the sewer system. "They went to Indianapolis several times, him and J.D."

Bontrager also worked hard as a businessman. His daughter, Delores Hostetler, said she remembered him working at the hardware stores. "He enjoyed that, but health wise he knew he shouldn't do that too long," she said. "It's kinda stressful."

It was the family farm that Hostetler said she remembered most fondly. She described it as a non-traditional farm with 1,800 rabbits, an apple orchard, various other kinds of fruit and red worms. Bontrager, who grew up Amish, and his daughter would go work on the farm frequently. "We talked about anything and everything," she said.

While working the family farm, Bontrager became a substitute bus driver. Later he and his wife both got their own bus routes. He drove buses for Westview schools for 12 years. Hostetler said the bus route was a perfect fit for her father.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ora Bontrager, left, with his wife Katie Bontrager was awarded Shipshewana Lions Club Citizen of the Year in 1998. A former president of the Shipshewana Town Board and local farmer, Bontrager died on June 15, 2008.

"Really that worked well with having the rabbits and the orchard," she said. "He really enjoyed the kids. He liked driving the bus."

Hostetler said one of the best things her father taught her was to always show support for the family members who recently lost a loved one. She said growing up the family would go to viewings and funerals frequently and when they were unable to, they would send a card to show their support.

"He and Mom were both very firm about that," she said. She realized how much it meant when they had his viewing. Over 500 people came through the viewing, some waiting more than 70 minutes to get through. "We were just very humbled by the amoung of people who came out for support," Hostetler said. "That has just absolutely amazed us."

Sarah Brang

AUBURN — Sarah A. Brang, 70, of Auburn, died Saturday, July 19, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was a homemaker.

On July 20, 1937, in Gladwin, Mich., she was born to Joseph and Lola (Parker) Mikeworth. She married John Brang on Sept. 2, 1960, in Albion, Mich. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Tamara Brang, Harlan; a daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and John Groscop, Auburn; four grandchildren, Justin, Adam and Sarah Groscop, and Alexandra Brang; four sisters and two brothers-in-law, Donna and Jim Newlin, Rochester, Rebecca Adams, Robinson, Ill., Judith and John Krathwohl, Advance, Ind., and Nana O'Dell, Robinson, Ill.; two brothers and three sisters-in-law, David and Loretta Mikeworth, Robinson, Ill., Vaughn and Yvonne Mikeworth, Crawfordsville, Fla., and Ginny Mikeworth, Robinson, Ill.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Rick Mikeworth, and a brother-in-law, Richard Adams.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with the Rev. O. Dale Williams officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being republished to add new icalling hours.*

Mary VanHorne

AUBURN — Mary Kathryn Grant VanHorne, 101, died Thursday, July 17, 2008, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

She was born April 9, 1907, in Columbia City to the late Otto E. (Sr.) and Maude (Widup) Grant.

She graduated from Albion High School in 1923 as valedictorian and then graduated from Indiana University. She taught Latin, English, algebra and physical education at Columbia City High School and mathematics at Franklin School in Fort Wayne. In 1949, she and her husband, Winslow, moved from Indianapolis to Auburn.

Mrs. VanHorne

She was a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church and a founding member of P.E.O. Sorority. She belonged to Kappa Delta Sorority, the Ladies Literary Club, several bridge clubs including ABCL, the YMCA and the former Greenhurst Country Club.

She was a volunteer at the Auburn Cord Duesenburg Museum and DeKalb Memorial Hospital, where she delivered mail to patients on Fridays from the time the hospital opened until late in her life.

In 1975 she became a real estate broker and held her license and sold real estate for 24years.

She married Winslow VanHorne on Feb. 1, 1936, in her mother's home in Fort Wayne. He died Oct. 13, 1989.

Surviving are a son, Grant VanHorne of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Tom Fischer of Auburn; six grandchildren, Clara Mary VanHorne Winebrenner, John VanHorne, Charles VanHorne, Tom Fischer, Tim Fischer and Laura Fischer Companion; six great-grandchildren and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Andrea VanHorne; a grandson, James Michael Fischer; and a brother and sister-in-law, Otto and Martha Grant.

Services will be today at 1:30 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Chaplain Tom Novy will officiate. Burial will be today at 4:30 p.m. at Greenhill Cemetery in Columbia City.

Calling will be today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Auburn First United Methodist Church and DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
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Dorothy Powers

KENDALLVILLE — Dorothy L. Powers, 87, of Kendallville died at 11:03 a.m. Saturday, July 19, 2008, at Kendallville Manor Health Care Center.

Mrs. Powers

Mrs. Powers had lived in Kendallville prior to moving to Fort Wayne in 1972. In 2000, she moved back to the Kendallville area.

She was born June 20, 1921, in Elkhart to Levi and Mary (Shultz) McClelland. She married Oved M. Powers on Dec. 25, 1937, in Auburn. He preceded her in death in 1999.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Demaris Powers, Barbara Powers and Pamela and Richard Jenkins, all of Kendallville; a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Carmen Powers of Ligonier; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and two close friends, Deborah Beaty and Charlene Benjamin, both of Kendallville.

She was also preceded in death by a great-great-grandchild, two sisters and three brothers.

Services will be at noon Wednesday at New Life Tabernacle, 609 Patty Lane, Kendallville with Pastor James Archambeault officiating. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery in Fort Wayne. Pallbearers will be David McClellan, Kody Hogge, Kenny Hogge, Richard Jenkins, Matthew Jenkins and Chad McCoy

Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family at youngfamily-funeralhome.com.

Catharina VanStraten

AUBURN — Catharina "Tina" VanStraten, 77, of Auburn died Monday, July 21, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

From 1969 until 1980 she and her husband, Arie, owned and operated Auburn Cabinet Shop. At the same time they also started and managed a Montgomery Ward store in Auburn. In 1979 they became property managers at Wesley Park Apartments until they retired in 1995.

Mrs. VanStraten

Mrs. VanStraten was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church. She belonged to the Grace Circle of the church and was a very active volunteer at the church. For many years she was a foster parent. She volunteered for Good Samaritan Food Pantry. She was a former board member of American Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity. She attended the Institute of Real Estate Management.

She was born Dec. 25, 1930, in Dantumedeel, Holland, to Herman and Henderika (Brouwer) Dekker.

She married Arie VanStraten on Oct. 5, 1956, in Barneveld, Holland, and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, John VanStraten of Auburn and Eric VanStraten of Indianapolis; two daughters and sons-in-law, Helen and James Caldwell of Morgantown and JoAnn and Grant DeVenney of Bentonville, Ark.; seven grandchildren, Diedre and Anneke VanStraten, Joshua, Shelby and Thomas Caldwell and Adam and Ashley DeVenney; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Harm and To Dekker and Fokke and Ellie Dekker, all of Holland; and a sister, Henny Arnaud de Callavon, of Holland.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Ryk and Gerrit Dekker; and a sister, Akke Pars.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Auburn First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the church or the American Cancer Society.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Conner Daniels

BUTLER — Conner Wallace Daniels, an infant, died Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, where he was born that day.

Surviving are his parents, Amy K. Davis and Mathew Daniels, both of Butler; his maternal grandparents, Debra and Rubin Swartz of Auburn and Ed Davis of Fort Wayne; his paternal grandparents, Marty and Ruth Daniels of St. Joe; a brother, Dylan; and a sister, Olivia.

There will be no services or calling.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Ariel Knight

GARRETT — Ariel Brooke Knight, 2, died Sunday, July 20, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are her parents, Sean Knight and Elizabeth Shadle of Garrett; a sister, Anastasia Marie Woodrow of Garrett; maternal grandparents, Pamela Atkins of Fort Wayne and Donald Shadle of Angola; paternal grandparents, Brenda Knight of Garrett and Howard Knight of Fort Wayne; maternal great-grandfathers, John Bowden of Florida and William Maggert of Garrett; a paternal great-grandmother, Vivian Kessler of Garrett; and several aunts and uncles.

Ariel Knight

She was preceded in death by her paternal great-grandparents, Mary Knight, Benjamin Knight and Carl Queen; her maternal great-grandmother, Bonnie Bowden; and her maternal grandmother, Marilyn Swihart.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor John Scott officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. and Thursday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home

Memorials are to a scholarship fund for Anastasia Marie Woodrow or to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Donna Treesh

FORT WAYNE — Donna J. Treesh, 80, of Lake Wales, Fla., and formerly of Fort Wayne, Auburn and Butler, died Monday at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Treesh

Mrs. Treesh was a 1945 graduate of Butler High School. She retired from General Electric in 1989 after 22 years of service. She also worked for Raymond Hefty Insurance of Auburn and the Auburn Rubber Co. and was a nurses' aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

She attended St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Auburn and Butler and belonged to the General Electric Flex Club.

She was born Oct. 5, 1927, in Butler to Byron and Melvina Baerlin Dielman.

She married Darrell Treesh on June 9, 1946, in Butler. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, James and Cindy Treesh of Lake Wales, Fla., and Max E. and Roxann Treesh of Fort Wayne; two daughters and a son-in-law, Cynthia A. Chaparro of Lake Wales, Fla., and Deborah and Gary Smith of Mulberry, Fla.; a brother, Richard Dielman of Sebring, Fla.; 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother Robert Dielman; and a sister, Betty Wagner.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Edna Fulk

PAULDING, Ohio — Edna Mae Fulk, 70, died Sunday, July 20, 2008, at her residence.

She was employed by American Greetings at Cleveland as an office secretary for 10 years. She was a member of First Christian Church in Paulding.

She was born March 30, 1938, in West Unity, Ohio, to Christ and Hazel (Flint) Leupp.

She married William L. Fulk on Sept. 5, 1959. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Pamela Fulk, and her fiance, Doug Blohm, of Auburn; two grandchildren, Amanda Estle of Auburn and Andrea Estle of Garrett; her daughter's fiance's children, Jennifer and Justin Blohm of Auburn; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Don and Cathy Leupp of Waldron, Mich., Harold Leupp of Litchfield, Mich., and Frank Leupp of Adrian, Mich.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Virgil and Lowell Leupp; a sister, Helen Thomas; and three half-sisters, Vera Sager, Blanche Williams and Flossie Fling.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at First Christian Church in Paulding, Ohio, with the Rev. Greg Bibler officiating. Burial will be in Paulding Memorial Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. in Den Herder Funeral Home, 1000 W. Wayne St., Paulding, and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Paulding County Hospice or Paulding County Hospital Oncology Department.

Condolences may be sent at denherderfh.com.

Ruth George

INDIANAPOLIS — Ruth N. Grogg George, 91, a resident of Indianapolis since 1967, died Monday, July 21, 2008.

Mrs. George was a 1935 graduate of Auburn High School. She worked as a detail painter for Auburn Rubber Co. for several years, and after that she was employed with the Boston Store in Auburn. She was a member of the Aldersgate Free Methodist Church.

She was born Jan. 1, 1917, to Alva F. and Ada R. Smurr Grogg of Auburn.

She married James Robert George on April 4, 1938. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law,, Harold R. and Nancy George and Richard E. and Judy George; a daughter, Sharon M. Kuhn; a sister, Bessie Mochamer; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 7 p.m. in Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 E. Washington St., Indianapolis.

Calling will be Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

A graveside service will be Friday at 1 p.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to Aldersgate Free Methodist Church, 9035 E. 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46229.

James Chaffins

GARRETT — James E. Chaffins, 73, of Garrett died Monday, July 21, 2008, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Mr. Chaffins worked at General Electric Aircraft Division in Fort Wayne for 26 years, retiring in May 1995. He served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army.

He was born Jan. 20, 1935, in Knott County, Ky., to Farris and Madge (Napier) Chaffins.

He married Madeline Kilgore on Nov. 2, 1959, in Liberty, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James and Deb Chaffins of Avilla; a daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Randy Kimball of Waterloo; a daughter-in-law, Penny Cook of Auburn; eight grandchildren, Ryan Chaffins, Holly Kimball, James Kimball, David Short, Joshua Chaffins, Tyler Chaffins, Calib Chaffins and Spencer Rowe; four great-grandchildren, Devan Short, Zaden Short, Nevaeh Chaffins and Rayne E. Chaffins; a brother and sister-in-law, Jack D. and Sally Chaffins of Avilla; and a sister and brother-in-law, Martha and Edgar Warrix of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Jack Chaffins and Johnny Chaffins; a granddaughter, Kylie Chaffins; a brother, Billy Sizemore; and two sisters, Ruth Hall and Patsy Chaffins.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Sam Weimer will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Independent Full Gospel Church of Ashley.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted with revised information about surviving relatives.*

Conner Daniels

BUTLER — Conner Wallace Daniels, an infant, died Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, where he was born that day.

Surviving are his parents, Amy K. Davis and Matthew Daniels, both of Butler; a brother, Dylan; and a sister, Olivia; his maternal grandparents, Debra and Ruben Schwartz of Auburn and Ed Davis of Fort Wayne; and his paternal grandparents, Marty and Ruth Daniels of St. Joe.

There will be no services or calling. Burial will be Riverview Cemetery in Newville.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with a photograph that was omitted in Wednesday's edition.*

James Chaffins

GARRETT — James E. Chaffins, 73, of Garrett died Monday, July 21, 2008, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Mr. Chaffins

Mr. Chaffins worked at General Electric Aircraft Division in Fort Wayne for 26 years, retiring in May 1995. He served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army.

He was born Jan. 20, 1935, in Knott County, Ky., to Farris and Madge (Napier) Chaffins.

He married Madeline Kilgore on Nov. 2, 1959 in Liberty, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James and Deb Chaffins of Avilla; a daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Randy Kimball of Waterloo; a daughter-in-law, Penny Cook of Auburn; eight grandchildren, Ryan Chaffins, Holly Kimball, James Kimball, David Short, Joshua Chaffins, Tyler Chaffins, Calib Chaffins and Spencer Rowe; four great-grandchildren, Devan Short, Zaden Short, Nevaeh Chaffins and Rayne E. Chaffins; a brother and sister-in-law, Jack D. and Sally Chaffins of Avilla; and a sister and brother-in-law, Martha and Edgar Warrix of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Jack Chaffins and Johnny Chaffins; a granddaughter, Kylie Chaffins; a brother, Billy Sizemore; and two sisters, Ruth Hall and Patsy Chaffins.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Sam Weimer will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Independent Full Gospel Church of Ashley.

Michael Studebaker

SPENCERVILLE — Michael D. Studebaker, 62, of Spencerville died Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne

Mr. Studebaker worked as a crane operator for Operating Engineers Local 103-150. He was a Vietnam War Army veteran and a member of Post 82 American Legion, Concord Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite Shrine and the Commandry.

He was born June 1, 1946, in Huntington to Harold B & Maxine E. (Hiers) Studebaker.

He married Jane M. Beck on Sept. 4, 1965, in Hicksville, Ohio. She survives in Spencerville.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey H. and Patricia Studebaker of St. Joe; two daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Ron Simpson of Spencerville and Deborah and Todd Irwin of Hicksville, Ohio; two grandchildren, Brittny K. Studebaker and Nickolas B Studebaker; and a cousin and his wife.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Thomas K. and Steven K. Studebaker.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville. Chaplain J. Van Collins will officiate. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville with military honors by Butler American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be Friday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home, with Masonic services at 8 p.m.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR
July 25 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Imogene Miller

AUBURN — Imogene Miller, 89, of Auburn died Wednesday, July 23, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Miller was a member of the Eastern Star.

She was born June 25, 1919, in Beatysville, Ky., to Mack and Pearl (Brandenburg) Carter.

Her husband, Donald Miller, died Feb. 28, 1998.

Surviving are two sisters, Mildred Stamper of Hamilton, Ohio, and Lucille Whitehurst of Aiken, S.C.; and one brother, Herbert Carter of Hamilton, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Hannon Carter and Billy Carter.

There will be no calling or services. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Memorials are to the Eastern Star.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
July 26 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Catherine Albert

GARRETT — Catherine E. Albert, 89, of Garrett died Monday, July 14, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Albert was a clerk at Sterns Clothing Co. in Garrett and as the head of the trust department at Indiana Bank before retiring in 1990.

She also volunteered at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Golden Years Nursing Home in Woodburn and Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett where she was named volunteer of the year. She was also a member of Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

She was born Nov. 27, 1918, in Otterbein to Earl and Alma (Dawson) Stetler.

She married Arthur Fred Albert on July 19, 1939

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Art E. and Carol Albert of Auburn and Tim and Sandi Albert of Garrett; eight grandchildren, Rick Albert, Michelle Taulbee, Joy Randol, Rebecca Wilkins, April Albert, Olivia Augsteine, Cheyenne McBride and Ezekiel Albert; and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; one brother, John Stetler; and three sisters, Marvel Wagner, Alma Grace Narrava and Eileen Gibbon.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with the Rev. Wayne Smith officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from noon-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Christian School.

THE EVENING STAR
July 27 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Few worked harder than Ridenour

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Few people, Anna Ridenour's daughters say, worked harder than their parents growing up.

"They were always working," Teresa Whipple, "to keep us all going."

Anna Ridenour died July 14. Her husband, Farrell, had deid in 1996.

Jackie Page said her parents worked hard, but always managed to be there for their 10 children.

"Dad worked days and mom worked nights," Page said.

That way, she said, the children always had someone at home, even when they had their own work to do. The family's farm was often tended by the children, both sisters said, and they all had responsibilities, from milking cows to canning fruits and vegetables.

In addition to the farm work, the children would probably be working at one of the three restaurants east of Angola that Rinenour owned.

"First was the Country Kitchen (beginning in August 1978), then Ellis (1980-81), then The Roundup," Page said.

Ridenour then sold The Roundup to her son Bradley, who later sold it to Page. Ridenour had worked as a cook at other area restaurants, such as the Hamilton House and Roger's Harvest House. Whipple said she still gets asked about her mother's method for cooking prime rib.

"People from all over would come the the Hamilton House for her prime rib. People would come up and ask her for the recipe too. She just liked to cook, I don't know if it was having 10 kids, but she just liked to cook," Whipple said. "As long as I can remember, that's all she did was cook. She decided rather than working for somebody else, she'd go into business herself."

The restaurants were similar, all of them east of Angola along U.S. 20, primarily serving travelers, and especially truckers.

"The Roundup was open 24-hours, and they had the big parking areas for the trucks," Whipple said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Anna Ridenour worked as a cook at a number of area restaurants before running three of her own. Through her dedication, her daughters say Ridenour and her husband helped to instill real values of dedication and hard work.

All of the children, at some point would work at the restaurants. "We were there a lot, at the Roundup, Country Kitchen and Ellis, we either washed dishes or would wait tables, whatever she needed," Whipple said. "When you have a small establishment like that, a lot of times you can't have a full staff, so we'd help out wherever we could."

Working hard at the restaurants came naturally however. They had a good example, Whipple said.

"Sometimes she'd work two shifts cooking, many times when the cook would call in, and she'd be the only one."

Page said the pride their parents instilled in their children was important. For example, their father sold their cattle after it became impossible to keep them penned. He was not going to have his cattle roaming his neighbors field.

The values they learned from watching their parents stuck with them, both Page and Whipple said.

"I work hard, that helped to forge that. We ahd to step up and do our part. They instilled those values in all of us," Whipple said.

Page remembered that despite financial hardships and teh difficulties their family faced, her mother always made sure their family had what they needed.

"She would always make sure food was on the table. She would sew clothes back together. In this day and age you don't see that."

THE EVENING STAR
July 28 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Louis McDougall

FORT WAYNE — Louis "Mac" McDougall, 90, died Saturday, July 26, 2008, at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. McDougall

Born in Clebourne County, Ark., he graduated from high school in 1936 in Auburn and attended Indiana Business College. He worked as a cost analyst with General Electric Co. for 30 years. After retirement, he became an ordained permanent deacon with the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

Surviving are his wife, Marie T. McDougall of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Rhonda McDougall, and Bridget, both of Fort Wayne; and three sisters, Geneva Sigler, Demaris Rice and Vada Albright.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in St. Anne Home Chapel, 1900 Randallia Drive, Fort Wayne. Entombment will be in Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, and Wednesday from from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at St. Anne Home, with a rosary service at 10 a.m.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health Care & Hospice.

THE EVENING STAR
July 29 2008 Auburn, Indiana

WW II aviator Margaret Ringenberg, 87, dies

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP) — Margaret Ray Ringenberg, a World War II pilot from Indiana who continued to fly into her 80s, has died. She was 87.

Ringenberg, of Fort Wayne, Ind., died Monday in Oshkosh, where she was attending an Experimental Aircraft Association event. Winnebago County Deputy Coroner Shelley Donner said Ringenberg died of natural causes.

Ringenberg ferried military planes across the country during World War II before serving as a flight instructor and competing in numerous air races, including an around-the-world race at age 72.

Ringenberg and her co-pilot finished third in last month's 2,312-mile women-only Air Race Classic between Bozeman, Mont., and Mansfield, Mass., according to race results.

Her adventures earned her a chapter in Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation," a book documenting heroes of the World War II era.

AP

In this March 4, 2002, file photo, aviator Margaret Ringenberg, 80, stands next to an airplane at Fort Wayne International Airport in Fort Wayne. Ringenberg, 87, died Monday.

Brokaw expressed sadness at Ringenberg's death.

"To do what she did, a farm girl … and then to have the life that she had," he told The Journal Gazette of Fort Wayne in a telephone interview Monday.

Ringenberg got the bug to fly when she was 8 years old and a barnstorming pilot landed in a field near her family's farm in northeastern Indiana. After she graduated from high school, she was resigned to becoming a flight attendant — thinking that was the only job on airplanes available for women.

During World War II, however, flight schools suffered a shortage of students as men were drafted. She was 19 when she flew solo the first time in 1941. Then she joined the Women's Air Force Service Pilots.

When the war wound down, she returned to the Fort Wayne area. She married banker Morris Ringenberg in 1946 and took a job answering phones at the airport. In the 1950s, she began racing and giving flying lessons.

Judith Puckett

KENDALLVILLE — Judith Ann Puckett, 64, of Kendallville died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at Parkview LaGrange Hospital, LaGrange.

Mrs. Puckett

She was a homemaker and a graduate of North Judson High School.

She loved watching NASCAR, and Tony Stewart was her favorite race car driver. She also enjoyed going camping and being with her family, grandchildren and friends.

She attended Faith Freewill Baptist in Kendallville.

She was born in Dowagiac, Mich., on June 17, 1944, to Amos Phillip and Ruby Beatrice (Rodgers) Freestone.

Surviving are her mother, Ruby Freestone of New Carlisle; two daughters and a son-in-law, Deb and Jeff Arnold and Robin Schlabach, all of Kendallville; a son and daughter-in-law, Phil and Melanie Puckett Jr. of Avilla; her companion, Jimmy Herron of Kendallville; grandchildren, Michelle and David Herron of Kendallville, Angel and Sal Alsaidi of Yemen, Skyla Handshoe of Kendallville, Caralie Puckett and Sydney Puckett of Avilla, Owen Puckett of Avilla and Dustin Puckett; seven great-grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Janet and Dan Ceaser of Mishawaka; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Betty Freestone of New Carlisle, Larry and Cinda Freestone of Swanton, Ohio, Richard and Denise Freestone of Rolling Prairie and Terry and Patrice Freestone of Dickinson, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews; and a special friend, Jackie Frain of Kendallville.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home with Pastor James A. Caudill officiating. Burial will be at Fairfield Center Cemetery near Corunna. Pallbearers will be Keith Sparkman, Troy Bender, Bob Johnson, Owen Puckett, David Herron, Gary Englehart, Jason Hamer and Gavin Herron.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

View a video tribute by Wednesday or send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

Wilbur Grubb

ANGOLA — Wilbur Grubb, 79, of Angola, formerly of Garrett, died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at his home in Angola.

Mr. Grubb worked as a fleet representative at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 25 years. He later worked at Wayside Furniture in Angola. He served in the U.S. Navy.

He was born Aug. 10, 1928, in Mongo, to Lamar and Mabel (Forbes) Grubb. He married Sharon Schmidt on Dec. 21, 1952. She survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Lon and Anne Grubb of Winnetka, Ill., and Gregg and Dawn Grubb of Fremont; and five grandchildren, Morgan, McKenzie and Claire grubb of Fremont, and William and Eleanor Grubb of Winnetka.

Services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Weicht Funeral home in Angola. Burial will be in Jackson Prairie Cemetery in Steuben County at a later date.

Calling will begin at 2 p.m. prior to the service Thursday.

Memorials are to the Steuben County Cancer Association and Cameron Hospice and Home Health Care.

Roy Shoudel

LEO — Roy M. Shoudel, 95, of Leo died Sunday, July 27, 2008.

Born Feb. 18, 1913, in DeKalb County, he worked for Kroger bakery and Somers Bakery and retired from Grabill Cabinet Co. He was a member of the County Line Church of God.

Mr. Shoudel

Surviving are his wife of 66 years, Marian (Weller) Shoudel; two daughters and a son-in-law, Pamela Skow of Hudson, Mass., and Dianne and Max Clem of Monroeville; two sisters, Ruby Yoder and Gladys Wilcoxson; four grandchildren, Larry Skow of Hudson, Mass., Christa Campbell of Wellesley, Mass., Michael Clem of Fort Wayne and Suzanne Clem of Muncie; and three great-grandchildren, Katie, Jonathan and Anna Clem of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Ora Shoudel, and three sisters, Neva Boyce, Lela Schwartz and Bertha Shoudel.

A memorial service will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 5-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a hospice of the donor's choice.

Olive Witmer

SPENCERVILLE — Olive E. Witmer, 92, died Sunday at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Witmer worked for 27 years until retiring as the office manager for Grabill Cabinets in Grabill. She was a member of Crossview Church, formerly known as Grabill Evangelical Mennonite Church.

She was born in Allen County on May 8, 1916, to Robert and Rose (Guiff) Murphy.

She married Merle E. Witmer on Dec. 24, 1938, in Allen County. He died Dec. 18, 1994.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Richard Hursh of Spencerville; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Paula Witmer of Harlan; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren,

She was preceded in death by four brothers.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Crossview Church in Grabill with Pastor Don Roth officiating.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Crossview Church, 13313 Indiana St., Grabill, IN 46741.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

Mary Bowker

AUBURN — Mary Y. Bowker, 72, of Auburn died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Bowker worked side-by-side with her son, Lowell, at Bowker Transportation, where she answered phones. She was also a produce clerk at Scott's Grocery for five years. She was a member of Calvary Chapel Worship Center in Auburn and attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo. Her interests included the card game Rook.

Mrs. Bowker

She was born in Norton, Va., to Howard and Eva Hart.

She married Melvin Bowker, who preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Lowell "Mose" and Allia Bowker of Garrett and Mark and Judy Bowker of Phoenix, Ariz.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Melody Waldron of Garrett and Marsha and Gene Harris of Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Athena Hart of Georgia; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Janie Bowker, and two sons, Michael and Melvin Bowker.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl and the Rev. Dennis Kutzner officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Gary Croft

BUTLER — Gary A. Croft, 62, of Butler, died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Croft worked in maintenance at Lutheran Hospital for 30 years.

He was born Aug. 21, 1945, in Lima, Ohio.

Surviving are a son, Charles W. Croft of Auburn; three stepsons, Jerry Goldsberry, Gary Goldsberry and David Goldsberry, all of Kentucky; a stepdaughter, Brenda Stephanski of Kentucky; eight grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 6 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Zoa Runion

GARRETT — Zoa E. Runion, 86, of Garrett died Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Runion was a homemaker and worked for Electric Motors in Garrett for 12 years. She was a member of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett and a former member of the Eastern Star of Garrett.

She was born Jan. 14, 1922, in Garrett to Samuel A. and Helen C. (Easterday) Hamm.

She married Everett A. Runion on April 13, 1946, in Garrett. He died July 31, 1989.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Diane Runion of Garrett; a sister, Margaret J. Engle of Fort Wayne; two grandchildren, Brad Runion and Michelle Oxender; and four great-grandchildren, Brooklyn Runion, Brenna Runion, Bryan Oxender and Andrew Oxender.

Graveside services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Christian Union Cemetery of rural Garrett, with the Rev. Jeffrey Horn officiating.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Garrett.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
July 30 2008

Gerald Bucher

CHURUBUSCO — Gerald L. Bucher, 86, of Fort Wayne died at 10:01 p.m. Saturday, July 26, 2008, at Heritage Park in Fort Wayne. He had been seriously ill for the past two weeks.

Mr. Bucher

Mr. Bucher was a former resident of Churubusco.

He had been employed as a truck driver for the Gladieux Oil Refinery in Fort Wayne and retired from Essex in Fort Wayne after 18 years. He had also been a farmer and had driven a truck for Sunoco Oil Co.

He was a graduate of Burket High School and a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Mr. Bucher was a member of Ari Church of God at Ari and Silver Creek Church of God near Silver Lake. He was also a member of the Teamsters Union, and was a past commander of the Huntertown Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

He enjoyed fishing, gardening, church activities and spending time with his family.

Mr. Bucher was born Nov. 21, 1921, at Silver Lake to Harmon and Ethel (Landis) Bucher. He married Georgianna Tibbitts and she died in 1968. He then married Mary (Wilson) Silverest. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Roger and Lynn Bucher of Fort Wayne, Gary and Sue Bucher of Auburn and Dennis (Kim) Bucher of Churubusco; seven stepchildren and their spouses, Marsha and Jerry Austermann of Lake Orion, Mich., Carolyn Jo Silverest of Fort Wayne, Charles and Stella Silverest of Forsyth, Mo., Richard C. and Shelby Silverest of Coats, N.C., Thomas C. and Joyce Silverest of Fort Wayne, Jack L. (Deborah) Silverest of Troy, Ill., and Curtis R. Silverest of Auburn; a sister, Donna Belle and Richard French of Akron; 37 grandchildren; and 53 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by three brothers, Edward Bucher, Robert Bucher and Earl Bucher; a sister, Mildred Clinker; and three stepdaughters, Ina May Silverest, Geraldine M. Lyons and Gloria Galante.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Silver Creek Church of God near Silver Lake with Pastors Carroll McNutt and Thomas Craig officiating. Military graveside services will follow in the church cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco and one hour prior to the service Thursday.

Memorials are to Ari Church of God or Huntertown Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to sheetsandchilds.net.

Charles Lansford Sr.

HAMILTON — Charles F. Lansford Sr., 75, of Hamilton died Wednesday, July 30, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Lansford retired as a truck driver from Universal Tool, where he was employed for over 35 years. He served as a corporal in the U.S. Army with the Sixth Armed Cavalry from 1950-1953 during the Korean conflict. He is a lifetime member and past commander of American Legion Post 202 of Butler. He was a long-standing member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Waterloo and Amvets Post 332 of Chesterfield and was involved with Stepping Stones for Veterans in Anderson.

He was born Sept. 22, 1933, in Sharon Township, Ill., to Herman and Elizabeth Lansford.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Veda (Minor) Lansford; three sons, Joe Lansford of Anderson, James Lansford of Hamilton and Charles Lansford Jr. of Edgerton, Ohio; one daughter and son-in-law, Vanita and Larry Friedel of Bronson, Mich.; four grandchildren, Jennie Russell of South Bend, Melenda Keegan of Reading, Mich., Belenda Hughes of Montgomery, Mich., and Sara Lansford of Elkhart; eight great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Wanda Cantrall of Cookeville, Tenn., Mary Adams of Las Vegas, Nev., and Leoada Cook of Litchfield, Ill.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Joe, Ernie, Vorcie and Ed Lansford; and four sisters, Annabell Wasser, Julia Boothsby, Edna Mae Jackson and Ethel Hall.

A military service will be Saturday at 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 202 of Butler.

Calling will be Saturday from 4-8 p.m. at American Legion Post 202 of Butler.

The family asks that flowers be omitted and memorials be directed to the family.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Linda Smith

HUDSON — Linda J. Smith, 67, of Hudson died Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Smith formerly worked at Tenneco in Angola, and the Wal-Mart in Angola and in Franklin.

She was born July 7, 1941, in Richmond to Flavia and Agnes (Reis) Jack. She married Ora Dale Smith Jr. on July 1, 1996. He survives in Hudson.

Also surviving are a daughter, Marcia Miller of Franklin; a son, Jeffrey Petty of Franklin; and a sister, Marilyn Huber of Richmond.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph Jack; and a sister, Rita Jack.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. Craig Burkholder officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in Corunna.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted to provide additional calling hours.*

Mary Bowker

AUBURN — Mary Y. Bowker, 72, of Auburn died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Bowker worked side-by-side with her son, Lowell, at Bowker Transportation, where she answered phones. She was also a produce clerk at Scott's Grocery for five years. She was a member of Calvary Chapel Worship Center in Auburn and attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo. Her interests included the card game Rook.

Mrs. Bowker

She was born in Norton, Va., to Howard and Eva Hart.

She married Melvin Bowker, who preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Lowell "Mose" and Allia Bowker of Garrett and Mark and Judy Bowker of Phoenix, Ariz.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Melody Waldron of Garrett and Marsha and Gene Harris of Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Athena Hart of Georgia; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Janie Bowker, and two sons, Michael and Melvin Bowker.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl and the Rev. Dennis Kutzner officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Saturday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at New Hope Christian Center.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Ruth Mountz

KENDALLVILLE — Ruth M. Mountz, 79, of Kendallville died Wednesday, July 30, 2008, in Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville where she had been a resident for a month.

Mrs. Mountz was raised in Garrett and had lived most of her life in Kendallville. She graduated from Garrett High School. She was a homemaker and offered child care in her home.

Mrs. Mountz

She was born Sept. 7, 1928, in Garrett to Arthur and Orla (Derrow) Swander. She married Chester L. "Chet" Mountz on April 22, 1967, in Angola. He preceded her in death on May 15, 2003.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Kristi and Brad Hauenstein of Bristol; three sons and daughters-in-law, Gary and Gloria McDonald of Rome City, Michael and Deborah McDonald of Shipshewana and Terry and Judy McDonald of Kendallville; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; three sisters, Connie Handshoe of Kendallville, Carolyn Martin of Fort Wayne and Jo Wert of Kendallville; and three brothers, Dick Swander of Fremont, Fred Swander of Albion and Larry Swander of Albion.

She was preceded in death by four brothers and sisters.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with Pastor Kevin Sneed officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett. Casketbearers will be Brad Hauenstein, Jeremy McDonald, Jess McDonald, Jeff McDonald, Pat McDonald, Chris McDonald and Gary McDonald II.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

LaDonna Hassett

FREMONT — LaDonna Sue Hassett, 61, of Fremont, died Thursday at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Hassett was a homemaker. Her hobbies included gardening, sewing, crafts, her Pomeranian dogs and spending time with her family.

She was born Sept. 30, 1946, in Herrin, Ill., to Bobby Junior and Eleanor (Rogers) Manning.

Mrs. Hassett

Surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Bill and Tina Barnthouse and Matt and Angie Barnthouse, all of Angola, Rob and Terri Barnthouse of Severn, Md., and J.C. Hassett of Fremont; one daughter and son-in-law, Leann and Jim Deventer of Garrett; 19 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Michael Manning of Angola; and two sisters, Barbara Manning and Debra Meeks, both of Fremont.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont, with the Rev. Keith Olson officiating. Burial will be at Jamestown Cemetery in Fremont.

Calling will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or American Lung Association.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at beamsfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
August 2 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Nick Myers

HAMILTON — Nick D. Myers, 66, of Chandler, Ariz., died Tuesday, July 29, 2008, in Chandler, Ariz.

Mr. Myers worked for Navistar Corp. in Indianapolis for 38 years before retiring.

Mr. Myers

He was born Sept. 13, 1941, in Auburn to Donald L. and Chloe S. (Nickols) Myers. He married Elizabeth Anne (Moore) Myers on July 24, 2004, in Angola. She survives in Chandler.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Kevin D. and Darla Myers of Fremont and Jeffery A. Myers of Indianapolis; a stepson, Bill Johnson; a stepdaughter and stepson-in-law, Blythe and Kevin Liebermann of Chandler; two granddaughters, Megan and Chloe Myers, both of Fremont; three stepgrandchildren Loren, Audrey and Max Liebermann, all of Chandler; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Kirby and Karen Myers and Gary and Jan Myers, both of Hamilton.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be Saturday, Aug. 9, at 11 a.m. at Hog Hill in Hamilton, with the Rev. Chick Gerber officiating.

Burial will be at Eddy Cemetery in Hamilton.

Memorials are to the Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
August 3 2008

Ordinary and extraordinary

Quiet, but wise farmer was far ahead of his time

BY VIV SADE ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO —Oscar Deetz was a farmer ahead of his time and a man who enjoyed life.

Family members often found their father and grandfather making freshly-squeezed orange juice, popping corn, bowling, watching the Cubs or Purdue basketball, gardening, fishing or playing euchre. In sharing his favorite things, Oscar created a treasure trove of family traditions that will be carried on for generations to come.

Mr. Deetz died at the age of 86 while mowing his yard at his home on June 23.

"He loved to mow and work in the yard," said his grandson, Roger Deetz. "It was somehow a fitting way for him to go."

Granddaughter Ingrid Deetz agreed.

"Grandpa wasn't ill. We were playing cornhole and fishing a few days before," she said. "He'd been bowling and picking strawberries. He went out to mow, apparently started to feel ill, got off the mower, leaned against an apple tree, and that was it. I think there's a country/folk song in there somewhere about passing away under an apple tree."

A lifelong dairy farmer, Mr. Deetz began using a computer when he was 80. He embraced new technology and ideas and developed an outstanding herd of registered Holsteins. He was one of the very first to use hybrid seed corn and artificial insemination to help make his farming practices more profitable. He worked closely with the Extension service and grew corn test plots to help other farmers decide which varieties worked best in DeKalb County.

Oscar was well-known in county, state, and national dairy breed associations for more than 50 years. The Deetz family was named outstanding dairy family of the year in 1995, and he had the outstanding cow of the year in 1996.

Oscar was born April 17, 1922, to Orlo and Martha (Eckert) Deetz and graduated from Ashley High School in 1940. He married Gloria Fiandt on June 3, 1945. They had three sons and a daughter — David, Randy, Stanley and Lisa.

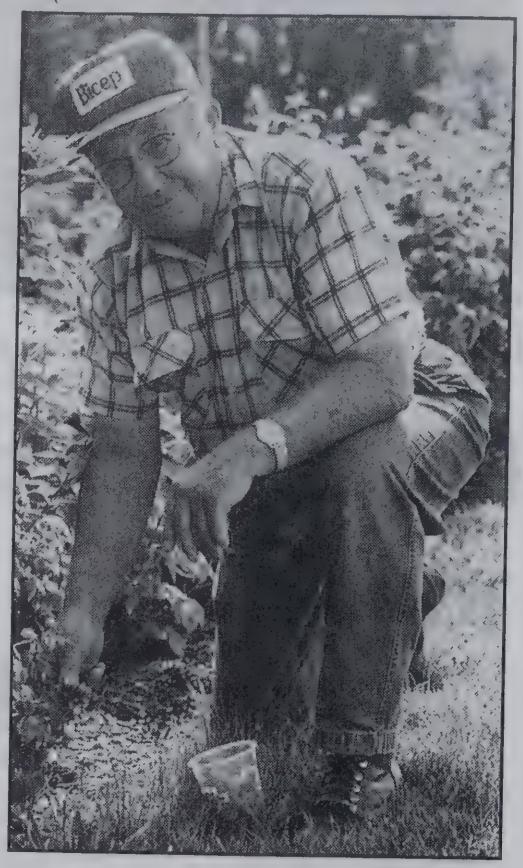

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Oscar Deetz kneels while enjoying one his passions – gardening.

Con't pg 276

Oscar loved to bowl and usually bowled three times a week. He was inducted into the DeKalb Bowling Hall of Fame, which brought him great pride, Roger Deetz said.

Oscar's son, Stanley, remembers his father's competitiveness. He recalls when his father was 84 and had a massive nosebleed and was strongly advised by a doctor to not bowl that evening.

"But for the first time in 45-plus years of bowling, his team was in a three-way tie for first and might actually win the league," Stanley said. "Dad, of course, went bowling, with a wad of cotton up his nose completed by a wooden stick that held the cotton in place. To the chagrin of all the 20-somethings on the other team, he had a fantastic night bowling, and his team won."

Oscar was well-known in the community, through his church and through his farming and 4-H affiliations. His farm hosted the annual DeKalb Ag Day Tour for many years, allowing hundreds of third-graders in the county to have agricultural experiences, and he donated several heifers to the Peace Corps.

But it was through his everyday actions and way of living that his family remembers him most. Oscar always found the time to show anybody a skill, whether it was fishing, woodworking, tool repair, gardening or better farm practices, said his son, Randy Deetz.

"And, he just loved showing the grandkids how to fish, pick berries, freeze homemade ice cream, and drive tractors," Randy Deetz said.

Oscar Deetz was a faithful blood donor and had donated over 13 gallons since the Red Cross began keeping records. He wanted to be an organ donor, but the timing of his death prevented that from happening.

Son David Deetz recalls that his father always made time for family.

"We would take a train from Waterloo to Chicago and then the L-train to Wrigley Field to watch the Cubs play," David said. "On show day at the 4-H county fair, we would be in center stage, showing our dairy cows, and dad would be in the barn, washing and polishing our next exhibit."

Oscar Deetz did not believe in acquiring debt. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, when many farmers struggled and, in some cases, gave up farming, Oscar continued to grow the farm and remained profitable.

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Oscar always insisted on doing the right thing, even if it was detrimental to a business deal.

"He always pointed out the cow's faults as well as the strengths when trying to sell cattle," Randy Deetz said.

After he died, his grandson, Carl, and grandaughter-in-law, Kathleen, wrote in their Web blog, "Who is going to make the fresh-squeezed orange juice in the morning? Who is going to pop the popcorn at night while everyone plays euchre? Who is going to plant the beautiful flowers all around the ponds? … The list goes on and on."

Granddaughter Ingrid Deetz remembers her grandfather's sense of humor.

"I remember the time he pulled me aside at the cottage and said, 'I didn't think I'd live to see the day you'd bring a boy home,'" she said. "Or how he shook my boyfriend, Ryan's hand as we left and said, 'Well, Ryan … good luck.'"

Oscar Deetz was quiet, yet powerful. Stanley Deetz remembers that his father could have an entire conversation by a raised eyebrow or smile — words were rarely needed. Deeply kind and giving, playful to the end, there was rarely a time that he did not wiggle his ears at dinner just for fun.

Pastor Bill Farmer knew Oscar well and said he thought very, very highly of his friend.

"He was quiet and wise," Farmer said. "He didn't say a lot, but when he spoke, everyone paid attention. He was a great gentleman."

Oscar was fond of saying he lived the best of both worlds — he started farming with horses and lived to see a man walk on the moon and witnessed tractors that could plant a field from a computer program.

His son, Stanley, summed up the essence of his father: "He was forever ordinary and extraordinary at once."

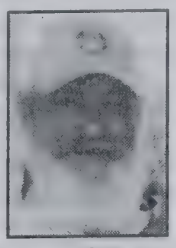
Another tradition Oscar Deetz started was making oyster stew on New Year's Eve.

"Oyster stew is a unique meal that definitely must be carried on," said Carl and Kathleen Deetz.

"By carrying on these traditions, Grandpa will live on in each of us. And when (our daughter) Lily learns the virtues of integrity, honesty, fairness, and above all, kindness, she will live the legacy of Grandpa Deetz."

Mark Hicks

KENDALLVILLE — Mark "Buddy" Hicks, 62, of Kendallville died Friday, Aug. 1, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Hicks

He was a member of Mount Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh. He hunted, fished, played guitar and sang.

Mr. Hicks was employed in the past with Lane Foundry and retired from Essex Wire after 23 years.

He was born in Triplett Branch, Ky., on July 20, 1946, to Harvey and Crystal (Thornsbury) Hicks.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Loretta McCann and Melissa and Marc Smith, all of Kendallville and Katrina Albany of Rockford, Ill.; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Matthew and Dawn Hicks and Mark Hicks, all of Kendallville; 10 grandchildren, Haylea, Joe, Mariah, Cameron, Dylan, Noah, Devin, Austin, Amber and Carson; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Chester Lee "Sonny" and Mavis Hicks and Darrell and Linda Hicks, all of Corunna; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Ruby and Willie Sparkman of Corunna and Thelma Glee and Jerry Collins of LaGrange; seven half-brothers and sisters from Kentucky; and his best friend, Roger Gamble of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Shawntaya Hicks; and one brother, William Lee Hicks.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Mount Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh with Pastor Willie Collins officiating. Burial will be at Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday after 3 p.m. at the church. An evening service will begin at 6 p.m. at the church.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Shelly Everetts

MUNCIE — Shelly F. Everetts, 43, died Friday morning, Aug. 1, 2008, at Ball Memorial Hospital of ovarian cancer. She was diagnosed in March 2003.

Mrs. Everetts

Everetts, who grew up in Butler, graduated from Faith Christian Academy (now Lakewood Park Christian School) in Auburn.

She received her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Ball State University and was an active member of High Street United Methodist Church.

She was born Sept. 17, 1964, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Janet and Raymond Morrow. They survive.

She married Bruce Everetts in 1985 and moved to Muncie. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Jacquelynn Everetts and Katherine Everetts, and two sons, Philip Everetts and Andrew Everetts, all at home; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Sherry Aldrich and Shelia and Eric Burnett, all of Fort Wayne; and her grandmother, Mary Hills of Butler.

Services will be in High Street United Methodist Church at 4 p.m. Monday with the Rev. Jack Hartman officiating. Burial will be private in Eddy Cemetery of Hamilton.

Calling will be at the church from 2-4 p.m. Monday.

Memorials are to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, the American Cancer Society or the National Cancer Institute.

Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.meeeksmortuary.com.

The Meeks Mortuary and Crematory, Washington Street Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted to add a name of a relative.*

Mark Hicks

KENDALLVILLE — Mark "Buddy" Hicks, 62, of Kendallville died Friday, Aug. 1, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was a member of Mount Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh. He hunted, fished, played guitar and sang.

Mr. Hicks

Mr. Hicks was employed in the past with Lane Foundry and retired from Essex Wire after 23 years.

He was born in Triplett Branch, Ky., on July 20, 1946, to Harvey and Crystal (Thornsbury) Hicks.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Loretta McCann and Melissa and Marc Smith, all of Kendallville, and Katrina Albany of Rockford, Ill.; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Matthew and Dawn Hicks and Mark Hicks, all of Kendallville; 10 grandchildren, Haylea, Joe, Mariah, Cameron, Dylan, Noah, Devin, Austin, Amber and Carson; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Chester Lee "Sonny" and Mavis Hicks and Darrell and Linda Hicks, all of Corunna; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Ruby and Willie Sparkman of Corunna, Thelma Glee and Jerry Collins of LaGrange, and Betty Krager of Corunna; seven half brothers and sisters from Kentucky; and his best friend, Roger Gamble of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Shawntaya Hicks; and one brother, William Lee Hicks.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Mount Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh with Pastor Willie Collins officiating. Burial will be at Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be today after 3 p.m. at the church. An evening service will begin at 6 p.m. at the church.

Condolences may be sent to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Beverly Carter

KING CITY, Mo. — Beverly June Light Carter, 67, of King, City, Mo., formerly of Angola, died Saturday, July 26, 2008, at a King City heath care facility.

Mrs. Carter sold Sarah Coventry Jewelry, Tupperware and Avon.

She was a member of the Women's Auxiliary VFW Post No. 3935 in Port Hueneme, Calif., and the Moose Lodge in Angola, as well as the Eagles Lodge. She also crocheted lap robes for veterans.

She was born June 1, 1941, in Angola, to Roscoe and Mary June (Main) Light. She was married to Frank Carter. He survives.

She is also survived by a daughter, Melissa Goble of Auburn; two stepchildren, LaDeana Wohlgren of Green Forest, Ark., and Clifford Carter of Oxnard, Calif.; two sisters, Deborah Casselman of Hamilton and Nancy Brammall of Angola; and four brothers, Dean and Donald Light of Angola, Norman Light of LaGrange and David Light of Waterloo.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements are by Roberson Funeral Home in King City.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
August 4 2008

Don Clear

KENDALLVILLE — Don Emorel Clear, 83, of Kendallville died Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008, at Muncie Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Muncie.

Mr. Clear had been a foreman at Quick Tanks in Kendallville where he had been employed for 23 years.

He was a member of the First Church of God in Kendallville.

Mr. Clear was a 1942 graduate of Hamilton High School.

He enjoyed gardening, working in his orchard, woodworking and helping others.

He was born in Continental , Ohio, on Dec. 9, 1924, to Louie Emorel and Flossie May (Richards) Clear. He married Gladys Irene Zerkle on Feb. 5, 1944, at the United Brethren Church parsonage in Corunna. She died Dec. 11, 2006.

Surviving are two daughters, Rochelle Williford of Muncie and Shelia Ulery of Waterloo; seven grandchildren: Jerald Furrow, Danny Furrow and Everett Furrow, all of Waterloo, Sam Woods and Stan Woods of Kendallville, Jake Woods of Auburn and Danetta Hawk of Muncie; 17 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren

Mr. Clear

He was also preceded in death by three brothers, Jaspar, Darrel and Cecil Clear; and five sisters, May Henderson, Ruby Mell, Irene Chadwick, Olive Hankey and Lela Schmidt.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home with Pastor Jim Kane officiating. Burial will be at Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

Doris Thimlar

BUTLER — Doris M. Thimlar, 86, died Sunday evening, Aug. 3, 2008, at the Hillside Nursing Home in Bryan, Ohio.

Mrs. Thimlar was a homemaker.

She was born July 22, 1922, in Angola to Hollie H. and Ortha I. (Wood) McKinley.

She married Howard N. Thimlar on Jan. 1, 1940, and he preceded her in death on June 26, 1993.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Judy Thimlar of Montpelier, Ohio; a brother, Bob McKinley of Elkhart; a sister, Dorothy Marlow of Elkhart; seven grandchildren, Charlene Moore of Butler, Larry Thimlar Jr. of Butler, Jeff Finney of Wauseon, Ohio, Janet McQuillen of Michigan, April Ardnot of Bryan, Jeanie Rogers of Florida and Tim Myers of Florida; eight great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Albert; a daughter, Rosalie Hoemig; and two brothers, Don and Harold.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with Pastor Jack D. Smith of the Butler Zion United Methodist Church officiating.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the activities department of Hillside Nursing Home in Bryan.

A guest book may be signed at hejohnsonfh.com.

John Biddle

ADRIAN, Ga. — John E. Biddle, 76, of Adrian died Thursday, July 17, 2008.

Mr. Biddle was a Noble County native and a Navy veteran of the Korean War.

He was a retired accountant.

Mr. Biddle worshipped at the Methodist Church.

He was born Aug. 28, 1931, in Noble County to Elmer and Elma (Taggart) Biddle.

Surviving are his wife, Retta Hulen Biddle; a son and daughter-in-law, Timothy and Marie Biddle of Melbourne, Fla.; a daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Steven Diehl of High Springs, Fla.; two sisters, Katherine Blanchard of Edwardsburg, Mich., and Mary Christlieb of Butler; two brothers, Jack Biddle of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Charlie Biddle of Kendallville; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Patrick Biddle; two sisters, Marie Leins and Patsy Keller; and a brother, Robert Biddle.

A family committal service will be held in Wolcottville at a later date.

Memorials are to United Hospice of Swainsboro, 667 S. Main St., Swainsboro, GA 40401.

Condolences may be sent to sammonsfuneralhome.com.

Raymond Molargik

GARRETT — Raymond L. Molargik, 43, of Garrett, died Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home, Butler, after a two-month battle with a brain tumor.

Mr. Molargik

Mr. Molargik worked in assembly at Brooks (Transgard) in Angola for 22 years. He was a 1983 graduate of DeKalb High School and earned an associate's degree from ITT. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, fourth degree, and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett.

He loved his family for all of their support. His hobbies were shopping and taking vacations with his sister, Sharon.

He was born May 24, 1965, in Garrett to William and Regina (Antoszkiewicz) Molargik. They survive in Corunna.

Also surviving are a sister, Sharon E. Molargik of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Daniel E. and Jackie Molargik of Osceola; and a niece and nephew.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett. Burial will be in Ege Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 3 to 8 p.m. at the McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with a rosary service at 6:30 p.m. Additional calling and a Knights of Columbus service will take place Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Masses.

Wilma Miller

AUBURN — Wilma R Miller, 93, of Auburn, died Wednesday, July 30, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Miller was a secretary for Nationwide Insurance Company.

She was born Nov. 11, 1914, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Elmer and Eleanor (Schunk) Schroer.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Raymond A. and Terry Miller of California; two daughters and sons-in-laws, Virginia and Tom DeBrunner of Hamilton and Carol and Frank Gould of Sun Lakes, Ariz; six grandchildren, Karen Macintyre, Laurie Brehm, Michelle Edwards, Kirk DeBrunner, Carla Duff and Kelly Gould; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin C. Miller, and three brothers.

Services were Saturday at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 4418 Bridgetown Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45211.

Memorials are to the church.

Gump-Holt Funeral Home, Cincinnati, was in charge of arrangements.

Robert Liss

AUBURN — Robert R. Liss, 76, of Auburn, died Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008, at Wesley Health Care, Auburn.

Mr. Liss was born June 14, 1932, in Chicago, Ill., to Bernard and Mary (Hally) Liss. They preceded him in death.

He also was preceded in death by a brother, Wayne Liss.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Agnes Ball

AUBURN — Agnes Ball, 96, of Auburn died Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Ball

Mrs. Ball was a caterer for many years, from the 1920s until recently. In the late 1920s and 1930s she worked as a live-in maid for the Harry McIntyre family in their Main Street home. She worked in the food service department of DeKalb Memorial Hospital, beginning in 1963 when the hospital opened. She also worked in the McKenney–Harrison Elementary School cafeteria for 19 years.

She was active in the YMCA and played Euchre at the Moose Lodge and Heimach Senior Activity Center in Auburn. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

Mrs. Ball was born Jan. 12, 1912, to George and Marie (Hoff) Shoudel in Waterloo. She marred Edmund H. Ball in 1936. He preceded her in death in 1972.

Surviving are five children and their spouses, Edmund and Barbara Ball of Fort Wayne, John and Susan Szela of Illinois, Wilbur and Kristine Moore of Auburn, Michael and Marcia Likens of Auburn and Gary and Sarah Leins of Auburn; 14 grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; seven stepgreat-grandchildren and one stepgreat-great-granchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters and four brothers.

Services will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate.

Calling will be at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn Thursday from 2 to 8 p.m. and one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday. A rosary will be Thursday at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials are to DeKalb County Hospice or masses.

Doris Thimlar

BUTLER — Doris M. Thimlar, 86, of Butler died Sunday evening, Aug. 3, 2008, at the Hillside Nursing Home in Bryan, Ohio.

Mrs. Thimlar was a homemaker.

She was born July 22, 1922, in Angola to Hollie H. and Ortha I. (Wood) McKinley.

She married Howard N. Thimlar on Jan. 1, 1940, and he preceded her in death on June 26, 1993.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Judy Thimlar of Montpelier, Ohio; a brother, Bob McKinley of Elkhart; a sister, Dorothy Marlow of Elkhart; seven grandchildren, Charlene Moore of Butler, Larry Thimlar Jr. of Butler, Jeff Finney of Wauseon, Ohio, Janet McQuillen of Michigan, April Ardnot of Bryan, Jeanie Rogers of Florida and Tim Myers of Florida; eight great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Albert; a daughter, Rosalie Hoemig; and two brothers, Don and Harold.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with Pastor Jack D. Smith of the Butler Zion United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery in Hamilton.

Calling will be today from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the activities department of Hillside Nursing Home in Bryan.

A guest book may be signed at hejohnsonfh.com.

Don Schulthess

HOWE — Don A. Schulthess, 84, of Howe died at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Schulthess had moved to LaGrange County in 1983 following his retirement. He had been a conductor with Conrail in Fort Wayne for more than 40 years.

Mr. Schulthess

He was a flight officer for the 2530th Air Force Base Unit during World War II.

Mr. Schulthess was a member of American Legion Post 215 in LaGrange, a Golden Eagle at the Garrett Eagles Lodge and the 8th Air Force Brigade.

He was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in LaGrange.

He enjoyed fishing and airplanes.

He was born Aug. 11, 1923, in Garrett to Albert and Esther (Ladd) Schulthess. He married Edna Fike on June 8, 1946, in Garrett. She died in 1995.

Surviving are three daughters, Linda Gradeless and Donna Longardner, both of Garrett, and Tammy Schulthess of San Jose, Calif.; a sister, Ruth Tarlton of Kendallville; five grandchildren, Tim Stafford, Rickey Stafford, Jeff Smith, Ginger Long and Amy Long; and a great-grandchild, Hailey Smith.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Norbert and Earl Schulthess, and a grandson, Dennis Stafford.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with Pastor Sandra Hutchens of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in LaGrange officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at Howe with military honors by American Legion Post 215.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to American Legion Post 215.

Condolences may be sent to carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

Wilbur Grubb

ANGOLA — Wilbur Grubb, 79, of Angola, formerly of Garrett, died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at his home in Angola.

Mr. Grubb worked as a fleet representative at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 25 years. He later worked at Wayside Furniture in Angola. He served in the U.S. Navy.

He was born Aug. 10, 1928, in Mongo, to Lamar and Mabel (Forbes) Grubb. He married Sharon Schmidt on Dec. 21, 1952. She survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Lon and Anne Grubb of Winnetka, Ill., and Gregg and Dawn Grubb of Fremont; and five grandchildren, Morgan, McKenzie and Claire grubb of Fremont, and William and Eleanor Grubb of Winnetka.

Services were July 31 at Weicht Funeral home in Angola. Burial will be in Jackson Prairie Cemetery in Steuben County at a later date.

Memorials are to the Steuben County Cancer Association and Cameron Hospice and Home Health Care.

Barry Osbun

KIMMELL — Barry G. Osbun, 55, of Kimmell died unexpectedly Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008, at 9:45 a.m. in his residence.

Mr. Osbun

Mr. Osbun was a lifetime Noble County resident.

He had formerly worked at Dow Corning in Kendallville. He had been a volunteer at Chain O' Lakes State Park, and enjoyed Civil War history.

Mr. Osbun was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was born April 1, 1953, in Kendallville to Raymond and Elmo (Bricker) Osbun.

Surviving are a daughter, April Solis of Garrett; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Travis Osbun of Bunker Hill, Justin Osbun of Kendallville and Jared and Jessica Osbun of Kimmell; eight grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Marna and David Manuel of Kendallville; and two brothers, Lauren Osbun and Keith Osbun, both of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Lee Osbun.

Private burial services will be at Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will be from 3-5 p.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Condolences may be sent to the family at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
August 7 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Phyllis Deal

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Phyllis Deal, 86, of Phoenix, Ariz., died Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008.

Mrs. Deal was born in Avilla on Jan. 18, 1922, and grew up in the DeKalb County area.

She was a member of the Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Ariz. She liked taking part in mission projects and traveling around the world.

She is survived by three brothers, John, Clarence and Richard Gillespie; three sisters, June Bauer, Marilyn Evans and Sandy Winebrenner; two sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Cheryl Deal of Peoria, Ariz., and Philip and Neva Deal of Aurora, Colo.; a daughter and son-in-law, Colleen and John Bautista of Peoria,, Ariz.; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Joy, 21000 N. 75th Ave., Glendale, Ariz.

Calling will be Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Sun City Church of the Nazarene Missions Fund, 14636 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351.

Betty Dangler

SOUTH MILFORD — Betty J. (Slone) Dangler, 59, of South Milford died Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008, at her South Milford home with her family at her side.

Mrs. Dangler

Mrs. Dangler had worked in the same building in Kendallville for 35 years for five different employers — King Seely, Eaton Corp., Teleflex, Siebe and Drivesol until 2007.

She attended Kendallville High School.

Mrs. Dangler was a member of the Harbor Of Love Baptist Church in Kendallville.

She enjoyed spending time with her family, shopping and flower gardening.

She was born in Martin, Ky., on May 5, 1949, to Leslie and Gertrude (Tackett) Hall. She married Don W. Dangler Jr. on Nov. 11, 2003, in Butler. He survives in South Milford.

Also surviving are her mother and stepfather, Gertrude and Sam Sawyer of South Milford; two sons and their families, Jerry Napier and his fiance Shelly Mahamah and their son Tyler Napier of Kendallville and Terry and Angela Napier their children Lisa and Kevin Napier of Wolcottville; three daughters and their families, Bridgette and Russ Southwood and their children Sabra and Brent Manns, and Alana Southwood of Avilla, Kim and Matt Green and their children Cameron and Tori Green of Avilla, and Leslie and Tommy Sibert and their son Lotus Sibert of Kendallville; four brothers, Sheridan and Joyce Hall of Rome City, Earl and Jewell Bolen of Kendallville, David and Theresa Bolen of Wolcottville and Roy Gibson of Kendallville; several nieces and nephews; and a special friend, Becky Owens of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by her father Shelton Bolen.

Services wil be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Harbor of Love Baptist Church in Kendallville with Pastor Charles Mosley officiating. Burial will be at South Milford Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Josh Bolen, Shane Hall, Tommy Sibert, Matt Green, Russ Southwood, Cameron Green, Brent Manns, Tyler Napier and Kevin Napier. Honorary pallbear will be Lotus Sibert.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the family.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

Carol Dowdy

HAMILTON — Carol Dowdy, 60, of Hamilton, formerly of Concord, Mich., died Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

She is survived by two sons, Mark Dowdy of Pleasant Lake and Scott Dowdy of Waterloo; four grandchildren, Dena, Darci, Adrianna and Brooke; a sister, Cathy Strong; and four brothers, Ron Wirebaugh, Raymond Wirebaugh, Richard Wirebaugh and Edward Wirebaugh.

Services will be today at 2:30 p.m. at the Lauer Family Funeral Home in Concord. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery in Clarendon Township, Mich.

Calling is an hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left at lauerfh.com.

Helen Schortgen

FORT WAYNE — Helen Schortgen, 90, of Fort Wayne, died Thursday Aug. 7, 2008, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Schortgen worked for General Electric in Fort Wayne for 44 years retiring in 1985. She also was a homemaker.

Mrs. Schortgen

She was a member of the St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo. She also was a member of the Rosary Society, GE Elex Club of Fort Wayne, and was a former member of the Harvest House in Waterloo.

She was born on Oct. 20, 1917, in Fort Wayne to John Tescula Sr. and Lodovica (Dan) Tescula. They preceded her in death.

She married Francis Schortgen on July 25, 1959, in Fort Wayne and he preceded her in death on April 16, 1989.

Surviving are one sister, Violet Derloshon of Fort Wayne; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Earl Tescula, Remus Tescula and John Tescula Jr.; and two sisters, Rebecca Lazar and Geneviv Tescula.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo. Father David Carkenord will officiate. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Waterloo.

Calling will be today from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and one hour prior to services at the church Saturday. A rosary service will be recited at 7:45 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Masses, to the church or the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Dale Pankop

CHURUBUSCO — Dale R. Pankop, 77, of Churubusco died at 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008, at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne. He had been in failing health since September 2007.

Mr. Pankop

Mr. Pankop was the owner and operator of Pankop Drainage & Excavating in Churubusco for 36 years. He retired from there in 1993.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Mr. Pankop was a member of the Gilbert Davis American Legion Post 157 in Churubusco.

He was born in Fairfield Township in DeKalb County on July 5, 1931, to Herman and Henrietta (Hasselman) Pankop. He married Ada Englert Pankop on Jan. 28, 1956, in Avilla. She survives.

Also surviving are his children, Pam (Harold) Hill of Churubusco, Marsha (Warren) Worman of Wichita, Kan., Vi (William) Sommers of Fort Wayne, Bob Pankop of Churubusco, Becky Coffelt of Columbia City and Judy (Matt) Burrell of Garrett; a brother, Eugene (Shirley) Pankop of Fort Wayne; a sister, Norma Pankop of Fort Wayne; 18 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Donald Pankop and Wayne Pankop; and two sisters, Dorothy Bender and Eleanor Tressh.

Services will be at 2 p. m. Sunday at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with Pastor Timothy Grable and William Claxton, officiating. Private family burial will be in the Christian Chapel Cemetery, Merriam.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Send condolences to sheetsandchilds.net.

Lois Stauffer

SPENCERVILLE — Lois Faith Stauffer, 51, of rural Spencerville, died Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008, at her home after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Mrs. Stauffer

Mrs. Stauffer was a homemaker, a homeschool teacher, a caregiver for her parents and a Bible teacher for young adults. She mentored girls and participated in small group and Bible study for many years. She was a gardener and animal-lover and her hobbies were cooking and canning, camping, hiking and spending time outdoors.

She was a member of the County Line Church of God, Auburn.

She was born Nov. 10, 1956, in Chicago, Ill., to Harry and Edna Anne (Winterberg) Moeller.

She married Gene Stauffer on Feb. 5, 1977, in Bryant and he survives.

Also surviving are her mother, Edna Anne Moeller of Hicksville, Ohio; two sons, Andrew Stauffer of Farmington Hills, Mich., and Jonathan Stauffer of Spencerville; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda and John Tuttle of Batesville and Martha and Carl Kreighbaum of Spring Hill, Tenn.

She was preceded in death by her father on March 16, 2007, and a sister, Esther Vorndran on April 2, 2008.

A memorial service will be conducted Monday at 11 a.m. at the County Line Church of God, 7716 N. County Line Road, Auburn, with Pastor Bob Herman officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the County Line Church of God Building Fund, 7716 N. County Line Rd., Auburn, IN 46706.

Arrangements are being handled by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville.

THE EVENING STAR
August 8 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Judy Gordy

AVILLA — Judy Gordy 59, of Avilla died Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008.

Ms. Gordy was a registered nurse and worked at the Northeastern Center in Kendallville for two years.

She then moved to Virginia and worked at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington for five years.

Upon returning to Indiana, she again worked at the Northeastern Center, this time in Auburn.

She graduated from Leavenworth Senior High School, Leavenworth, Kan., in 1967. She graduated from Columbus State University, Columbus, Ga., in 1977 with a degree in nursing.

Ms. Gordy like animals, traveling and she loved to read.

She was born in Columbus, Ga., Dec. 27, 1948, to Joseph and Charolette (Berry) Mitchell.

Surviving are a son, Jeremy Gordy of Hampton, Va.; a daughter, Kassie Gordy of Avilla; a brother and sister-in-law, Joseph Jr.and Leslie Mitchell of McLean, Va.; the father of her children, Randy Gordy of Monte Rio, Calif.; her stepmother, eorgEvelyn Mitchell of Columbus, Ga.; and a nice and nephew.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Avilla, with the Rev. Thomas A. Dunbar officiating.

Memorials are to the Noble County Humane Shelter.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
August 9 2008 Auburn, Indiana

John Wolfe

WATERLOO — John A. Wolfe, 58, of Fort Wayne died Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne.

He was a licensed journeyman electrician and worked for International Harvester and Coupled Products LLC of Columbia City. His hobbies included woodworking, leatherwork and beadwork. He loved camping, hiking, the outdoors and attending rendezvous.

On June 18, 1950, in Kendallville he was born to Robert W. and Mary L. (Wood) Wolfe. His father survives in Waterloo. His mother preceded him in death. He married Tonya Walker on Jan. 17, 2008. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are: a stepdaughter, Jessica Walker, Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Sue Wolfe, Hamilton; a sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Chuck Kristek, Fort Wayne, two nieces; and three nephews.

Memorial services will be at 6 p.m. today at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Pastor Mike Harris officiating.

Calling will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Ronald McDonald House or Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

THE EVENING STAR
August 10 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Bultinck believed in peace, nature

BY AMY OBERLIN
amyo@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Michael Bultinck was a peaceful and gentle person.

He quietly went about his work as director of Cameron Counseling Center, touching thousands of lives in the process.

"He really liked helping people," said Rita Lechleidner, who worked with Bultinck for almost 16 years at the center and calls him one of her best friends. He worked for Cameron for 17 years. Bultinck liked one-on-one counseling sessions, and working with groups. Lechleidner said since his death, she's spoken to many people, not just clients, who said Michael helped them with problems they faced in their lives.

"He went about that in a very quiet way and people felt comfortable talking with him," she said. Lechleidner related a story from Steuben County Probation Department of a probationer devastated by the news of Michael's death. "He looked at Michael as one of his only friends," she said.

"I think people realize that he genuinely cared."

It was a couple of members of an anti-violence group that found Bultinck on Monday, July 21 in his office, dead from an apparent heart attack at the age of 56. Bultinck's wife, Lauri, said the men — sent to Michael to deal with rage and behavior-related isses — carefully lifted her husband's body from his desk chair and laid him on the floor before alerting Lechleidner.

"I really cherished that," said Lauri. She said when she met with those men she could really feel the great work Michael had done with them.

The Bultincks lived in Coldwater, Mich., where Lauri operates a private counseling practice. Their family, which includes children Sonya, 34, Quartny, 24, and Graham, 14, spent three days following Michael's death meditating, finding energy and healing in the expansion of his soul, said Lauri. They filled a room at Dutcher Funeral Home in Coldwater with icons from Michael's life. That included paintings and sketches he made and memoirs from bird watching.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED.

Michael Bultinck, center, loved his family.

Con't on pg. 290

As the family gathered up these things, Lauri said they found a journal Michael kept for Graham. It listed every time the two had gone birding with entries explaining what they saw. They had ventured out with naturalist Fred Wooley just the weekend before Bultinck passed away.

"It brought Michael great pride when Graham would get a new 'life bird,'" said Wooley, who works at Pokagon State Park. "Michael was not one to jump with enthusiasm, but he wore the biggest smile when talking about his wife Lauri and their children. I would ask about Quartny's activities and he would light up when discussing her good grades in college or her projects, as they related to his environmental interests."

Quartny said it was that environmental motivation that led her to her current path, working toward her Ph.D in solar energy at the University of Toledo. She received her bachelor's degree in physics last year from Ball State University.

"I'm doing that because he was such an environmentalist and I was raised to respect and love the environment," said Quartny. She said through family trips to nature parks and watching birds, she learned "to really come to peace with the environment and really enjoy quietness."

Wooley said Bultinck's passion for birds and his enjoyment in sharing that with Graham, who will be a freshman this year in high school, really showed.

"When I e-mailed some friends in the birding community, one who has birded with Michael on our Christmas counts simply said, 'I enjoyed his quiet manner of birding.' That was Michael. Quiet, peaceful, unassuming," said Wooley.

Bultinck was a member of the Audubon Society and Stockbridge Audubon, as well as the Arbor Day Foundation. He had been involved with the National Wildlife Foundation and ACRES events. Lauri said he took his family to ACRES' Wing Haven Nature Preserve in the spring to catch the first glimpses of flowers and little animals leaving their winter homes. They planted herbs and vegetables. The couple's two favorite places were museums and book stores, Lauri said.

cont from pg 289

"Michael had many interests, I have come to learn, but the two that stand out for me were peace and nature," said Wooley. "I would not say that he was a peace activist, because that did not strike me as his style. As close as I saw of activism were the great bumper stickers on his car! I would say he was more of a peace promoter. He lived a peaceful life and did not have to push it in your face or even wear it on his sleeve. He showed a passion for peace by the way he lived and the quiet time and understanding he gave to people."

Michael was born June 14, 1952 in South Bend to Paul and Doris Peed Bultinck. He received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University - South Bend. His family included his wife and children, a brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Lori Bultinck of Grandville, Mich.; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Kathy and Gary Kull and Patty and Michael Klute, all of Niles, Mich.; and three grandchildren, Alaina, Sophia and Angelo Dentino. He was preceded in death by a brother, Charles Peed.

Plans were well underway for Quartny's wedding in the Indianapolis area to Chris Thornberry when Michael died. Quartny said her father was glad that though she was marrying for her own self-fulfillment, she was also staying on track with her career goals. She said he was always there for the major moments of her life, be it track meets or the receipt of the outstanding senior award in the physics department at Ball State.

"He wanted me to do what made me happy," Quartny said Friday afternoon amidst a whirlwind of hairstyling and meal preparations.

"I am blessed that he was a part of my life," said Lauri. Michael was raised a Catholic and studied Buddism, but refused labels.

"He didn't like the association of the words alcoholic and drug addict," Lauri said, relating to his practice.

"I think he led people into self discovery," said Lechleidner. "He was good at asking people the right questions so they could find their own answers."

She also noted that he could easily see through facades and required clients to be honest with themselves.

"He facilitated a space and people just grew in that space," said Lauri.

Michael was the backbone of his family. After the couple took up bike riding, Lauri learned to enjoy long-distance pedaling. While Michael bowed out of the rigor, he did find a love for repairing the bicycles Lauri rode over the past four or five years.

"He would get really, really involved in what the kids were doing," said Lauri.

Memorials to Michael may be directed to an educational trust for his children, to the Pokagon State Park Nature Center or to Fernwood Gardens in Niles.

A funeral was held in Coldwater July 24, and a service of remembrance is planned for Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Cameron cafeteria. Father Skip Carsten, the hospital chaplain, will officiate. A time will be provided for those who wish to share thoughts and comments about Michael.

John Wolfe

WATERLOO — John A. Wolfe, 58, of Fort Wayne died Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne.

He was a licensed journeyman electrician and worked for International Harvester and Coupled Products LLC of Columbia City. His hobbies included woodworking, leatherwork and beadwork. He loved camping, hiking, the outdoors and attending rendezvous events.

On June 18, 1950, in Kendallville he was born to Robert W. and Mary L. (Wood) Wolfe. His father survives in Waterloo. His mother preceded him in death. He married Tonya Walker on Jan. 17, 2008. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are a stepdaughter, Jessica Walker, Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Sue Wolfe, Hamilton; a sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Chuck Kristek, Fort Wayne; two nieces; and three nephews.

Memorial services will be at 6 p.m. today at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Pastor Mike Harris officiating.

Nathan McCully

MUSCLE SHOALS, Ala. — Garrett native Nathan Paul McCully, 88, of Alabama, died Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008.

Following graduation from Garrett High School, Mr. McCully joined the U.S. Navy, where he served for 10 years. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor and earned eight Battle Stars in the Pacific Theatre while participating at Midway Island, Iwo Jima and the Solomon Islands.

Mr. McCully earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Alabama. Upon graduation, he worked as a teacher and coach for Fayette High School. While at Fayette, he met and married Sue Propst. The couple moved to Muscle Shoals, Ala., where he lived for 48 years.

He was a charter member of the First United Methodist Church of Muscle Shoals.

Mr. McCully was born in Garrett on Oct. 5, 1919, to Claudius Nathaniel and Elsa (Hill) McCully.

Surviving are his wife, Sue of Muscle Shoals; three sons and daughters-in-law, Steve and Sandra McCully of Madison, Ala., Dan and Christi McCully of Atlanta, Ga., and Jeff and Paula McCully of Huntsville, Ala.; and four grandchildren, Abby and Chandler of Huntsville and Sean and Casey of Atlanta, Ga.

Services were held Saturday at Colbert Memorial Chapel in Tuscumbia, Ala., with the Rev. Joyce Akridge officiating. Burial was in Colbert Memorial Gardens in Tuscumbia.

Memorials are to the scholarship fund of Muscle Shoals Schools or a charity of the donor's choice.

Dorinda Scott

HICKSVILLE, Ohio — Dorinda K. Scott, 48, of Hicksville died Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008, in Hicksville.

She was employed at Therma-Tru Corp. in Butler and was a past member of Eagles Aerie 2556 in Hicksville. She graduated from Hicksville High School in 1978.

She was born Dec. 16, 1959, in Hicksville to Charles W. and Zola (Hook) Russell.

She married Alan Scott on Aug. 19, 1978. He survives.

Also surviving are a son, Charlie of Hicksville; a daughter, Chelsea of Hicksvillle; a grandson, Anakin of Hicksville; a sister and brother-in-law, Vera and Bill Cummins of Hicksville; and two brothers and a sister-in-law: Gerald and Margie Camp of Hicksville and Russell Camp of Hamilton.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville with Minister Ken Wellman, of the First Church of Christ in Hicksville, officiating. Burial will be at Forest Home Cemetery in Hicksville.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-9 p.m. and Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Scott family.

THE EVENING STAR
August 12 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Velma Mortorff

ASTOR, Fla. — Velma Irene (Collins) Mortorff, 70, of Astor, Fla., died Aug. 6, 2008, at St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee, Ohio, following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Mortorff was a member of the Moose Lodge in Astor, Fla.

She was born Dec. 24, 1937, in Delphos, Ohio, to William and Genevieve Collins.

She married Paul Mortorff on Jan. 7, 1977. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Diana Miller of Perrysburg, Ohio; three stepdaughters, Patti Hathaway of Waterloo, Linda Swann of Woodburn and Stacey Stevens of Woodburn; a stepson, James Mortorff of Antwerp, Ohio; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Toni Theis of Paulding, Ohio, Carol Arnold of Norton, Va., and Linda Trubey of Waterloo; and five brothers, James Collins of Verbena, Ala., Willard Collins of Waxhaw, N.C., Edward Collins of Tampa, Fla., Thomas Collins of North Platte, Neb., and Carl Collins of Tampa, Fla.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Norris Chapel United Methodist Church of rural Auburn. Her body was cremated.

Georgiana Bowes

WARREN, Ohio — Georgiana Grace Bowes, 105, of Warren, Ohio, and formerly of Garrett, died Monday, Aug. 11, 2008.

Mrs. Bowes

Mrs. Bowes was a Garrett resident from 1947 to 1993. She graduated from the Cedar Crest College for Women in Allentown, Pa. She was a school teacher in Uniontown, Pa., and also taught third grade for 15 years in the Garrett-Keyser-Butler school system. During her career she taught grades 1-12 and retired in 1970.

She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, Tri Kappa Sorority and Daughters of the American Revolution. Her hobbies were reading and playing the piano. On her 105th birthday, she was named Citizen of the Day by Mayor Michael O'brien of Warren, Ohio.

She was born Aug. 16, 1902, in Fayette County, Pa., to Amzi and Luella Grace (Gaddis) Vail.

She married David M. Bowes on Nov. 1, 1934, in Smock, Pa. He died in October 1960.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Eleanor and Harry Schoger of Cortland, Ohio; three grandchildren, Elizabeth Miles of North Canton, Ohio, Matthias Schoger of Houston, Texas, and John Schoger of Worthington, Ohio; five great-grandchildren, Lauren and Molly Schoger, Alyssa and Matthias Miles and Thomas Schoger; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, James G. and Robert E. Vail.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be left at thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
August 14 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Charles Ralstin

RUSHVILLE — Charles R. "Chuck" Ralstin, 63, of Rushville and formerly of Angola, died Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Ralstin worked in production for Dana Corp., retiring in 2003 after 30 years. He was also a U.S. Army veteran.

He was a member of the Rushville Eagles Lodge. He spent most of his life in Rush County, and lived in Angola and Syracuse from 1988 to 2002.

He was born Feb. 2, 1945, in Connersville to Earl and Mattie (Gilpin) Ralstin. He married Jeanie Bane on Nov. 11, 1967. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Robert Ralstin of Fremont, and Andrew Ralstin of Waterloo; four grandchildren; and six stepgrandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother and sister.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Moster Mortuary in Rushville, with the Rev. Jeff Taylor officiating. Burial will be in East Hill Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
August 16 2008

Rome City businessman Larry Edwards dies at 69

ROME CITY — Larry Edwin Edwards, 69, of Rome City died unexpectedly at 9:45 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008, at his residence.

He was a lifetime area resident, businessman and entrepreneur. Mr. Edwards founded Floor Coverings in Rome City in 1963. His business involvements included Group One Auto Sales at U.S. 6 and S.R. 9, Kendallville, R & L Investments, Edwards Fly Fishing Inc., and most recently, the Adams Lake Pub.

Mr. Edwards

He fished and played golf, and was considered the area's professional fisherman. He gave seminars on fly fishing and fly tying. He helped to form and was an active member of St. Gaspar Catholic Church in Rome City. Mr. Edwards was active in the Men's Club and choir, and the St. Gaspar guitar group. He looked forward to organizing Christmas parties for two area nursing homes, Hickory Creek in Kendallville and Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange.

Mr. Edwards and the guitar group also entertained the residents at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla. He befriended coach Bobby Knight, and often entertained him at his home.

On Jan. 19, 1939, in Noble County, he was born to Everett "Mutt" and Ruth Olive (Herendeen) Edwards. He married Mary Krull on Feb. 6, 1960, at St. Gaspar Catholic Church. She survives in Rome City.

Also surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Susan and Tom Dukehart, Rome City, Dr. Deborah and Phil Redd, Indianapolis, Linda and Ben Castle, Rome City, and Michelle and Troy Haynes, Kendallville; three sons and two daughters-in-law, John and Deb Edwards and Michael and Karen Edwards, all of Rome City, and Robert Edwards, Kendallville; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Tom and Bill Whitford of Pennsylvania, Cheryl Eash, Ligonier, and Vanita and Paul Shackle of Wisconsin; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Donald and Gloria Edwards, Auburn, and Terry and Luanne Edwards, Kimmell; 20 grandchildren, Jacob, Isaiah, Jonathon, Jessica, Kylee, Kristopher, Kourtney, Kelsey and Trey Edwards, Sabrina Stanley, Tommy Dukehart II, Joshua and Kelli Dukehart, Phil III and Deybrian Redd, Ryan and Holly Castle, Mark Johnson, and Abby and Collin Haynes; and three great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Arnold and Darl Eugene Edwards; a sister, Mary Lou Grimes; an infant granddaughter, Jesette; and an infant grandson, Zachary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Gaspar Catholic Church in Rome City with Fr. Bernard Ramenaden officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery near Rome City. Pallbearers will be John, Michael, Jacob, Isaiah and Robert Edwards, Tom, Josh and Tommy Dukehart II, Phil Redd, Ben Castle, Troy Haynes, Mark Johnson and Scott Grimes.

Calling will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday at the church with Rosary service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to St. Gaspar Catholic Church, Noble County Humane Society or Kids Day Fishing Tournament on Sylvan Lake. Envelopes will be available at the church.

A video tribute may be viewed and condolences sent online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9, Wolcottville, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
August 17 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Legendary aviator loved racing

BY JENNY KOBIELA
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Aviation pioneer Margaret Ringenberg spent her life in the air.

Ringenberg, who died July 28 at the age of 87, started her flying career as a member of the Women's Air Service Patrol (WASP) during World War II. After the war, she spent her life racing, working as a professional pilot and, most importantly, teaching the next generation to love flying. During her life, she racked up over 40,000 hours of flight time.

Lara Zook Gaerte, owner of DeKalb County Airport's fixed-base operator Century Aviation, was just one of many women who benefited from Ringenberg's passion for flying.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Aviation pioneer Margaret Ringenberg, right, stands with Lara Zook Gaerte, owner of Century Aviation in Auburn, in front of the Cessna 182 they flew in an air race in 2004. Ringenberg died July 28.

In 2004, Ringenberg teamed with Gaerte to race in the an all-women cross-country air race. The course that started and ended in Wichita, Kan.

Gaerte said she had never seriously considered racing, but Ringenberg's call changed her mind.

"I though, 'If I'm going to do it, I might as well do it with the best,'" she said.

Gaerte said at least part of Ringenberg's desire to fly with Gaerte was so that she could pilot Gaerte's Cessna 182. However, Ringenberg also had a geniune desire to get people in the air.

"She liked to bring new people in," Gaerte said, "and I hadn't done it, and I was a local kid."

Gaerte said she was nervous before the race — after all, she had never flown in a race before, and she was sitting next to an aviation legend. However, the pair fell into a routine pretty easily, Gaerte said. She would concentrate on the technology, while Ringenberg flew the plane.

Gaerte also had to contend with the attention Ringenberg attracted at every stop on the race.

"She's like a living legend, so every time we stopped somewhere, there was a press crew," Gaerte said. "She loved it."

Ringenberg's fame soared when Tom Brokaw made her the focus in a chapter of his best-selling book "The Greatest Generation." She wrote her own book about her life, titling it "Girls Can't Be Pilots." She has appeared on national television shows and she frequently spoke at schools and libraries throughout northeast Indiana.

In 2004, Ringenberg and Gaerte took sixth place in the Women's Air Race Classic, and Gaerte was bitten by the racing bug.

Gaerte never raced with Ringenberg as her partner again, but they were competitors in the classic three more times — in 2005, 2006 and just a month before Ringenberg's death. Gaerte said she learned a lot from Ringenberg, although the veteran also had her racing secrets.

"I beat her once, and she beat me a couple of times," she said. "Margaret was a pretty tough competitor, and she didn't give a lot up."

Gaerte recalled that Ringenberg used to fish for information about how fast her competitors' aircraft were going.

"She would come up very carefully and ask, 'How are you doing?'" she said. "She wanted to see if hers was as fast as yours."

Ringenberg, who won one Women's Air Race Classic in the late 1980s, took third place in the 2008 race.

"I think she was pretty tickled to get top five this year, but I think she really wanted to win one more," Gaerte said.

More than anything, though, Gaerte remembers that Ringenberg, despite her great work in aviation, was "just another person."

Laughing, she recalled a dinner in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., during the 2008 race. It had been a hard day, so many of the pilots were sipping wine with their dinners — but not Ringenberg. She insisted on beer.

"She's just Margaret," Gaerte said. "When you spend two weeks getting sweaty with someone in an airport, legendary or otherwise, it gets more personal."

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
August 17 2008

Richard Gross

ROME CITY — Richard A. Gross, 77, of Eagle Island, Rome City, died Friday at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Gross

Mr. Gross worked as a machinist for Kunkle Valve in Fort Wayne. He retired after 25 years in 1994. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

He was a member of the Messiah Lutheran Church in Wolcottville and American Legion Post No. 381 in Rome City. He graduated from Arcola High School in 1949. He enjoyed fishing, making model boats out of aluminum cans and collecting "smiley faces."

He was born in Green Center on Oct. 12, 1930, to Everett Maurice and Mary Ruth (Mauer) Gross. He married Ruth Benzinger on April 30, 1960, at Soest Immanuel Lutheran Church in Allen County. She survives in Rome City.

He is also survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Gary Best of Fort Wayne; a son, Larry Gross of Fort Wayne; and five grandchildren, Sarah Gross of Indianapolis, Joe Best of Monroeville, and Justin Gross, Jacob Best and Christine Best, all of Fort Wayne.

Services will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, with the Rev. James Tews officiating. Burial will be at a later date at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Monday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the Messiah Lutheran Church New Building Fund.

THE EVENING STAR
August 18 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Howard Hine

WATERLOO — Howard Hine, 94, of Waterloo died Saturday morning. Aug. 16, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Hine was a lifetime farmer. He was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and a former special deputy for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office. He belonged to the Amateur Radio Club, Ashley Masonic Lodge No. 614 and the DeKalb County Civil Defense.

He was born March 29, 1914, in DeKalb County to F. "Maynard" and Mable (Scattergood) Hine.

He married Doris E. Holman on Oct. 18, 1940, in the United Brethren parsonage in Waterloo. She died Oct 26, 2002.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Maynard and Connie Hine of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Jim Ross of Pembroke Pines, Fla.; a son-in-law, Karl Mess of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Chad Hine, Tim Hine, Sara Mess and Caroline Mess; and a great-granddaughter, Emma Hine.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Mary Mess, and a granddaughter.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Leonard Shaffer will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials are to his church or the American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
August 19 2008

Sharon Grubb

ANGOLA — Sharon Estelle (Schmidt) Grubb of Angola, 74, died Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008, in Angola.

Mrs. Grubb was a homemaker.

She graduated from Garrett High School and attended nurses training in Fort Wayne.

She was born Oct. 27, 1933, in Indianapolis to Harvey and Mabel (Butler) Schmidt. She married Wilbur Grubb. He died July 27.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Lon and Anne Grubb of Winnetka, Ill., and Gregg and Dawn Grubb of Fremont; five grandchildren, William and Eleanor Grubb of Winnetka, and Morgan, McKenzie and Claire Grubb of Fremont.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Calling will be an hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Steuben County Cancer Society and the Lupus Foundation of America.

Carol Ridenour

AUBURN — Carol May Ridenour, 74, of Auburn died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008, at Fresenius Medical Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Ridenour was a homemaker. She was a member of the Maple Grove United Methodist Church in rural Corunna.

Mrs. Ridenour

She was born May 22, 1934, in Garrett to Hubert and Hazel (Long) Bowman.

She married Melvin R. Ridenour on Jan. 6, 1952, in Angola. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Susan K. and Jim Konrad of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Eva M. and Steve Richardville of LaOtto; one son and daughter-in-law, Melvin L. and Shela Ridenour of Auburn; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, George Hubert Ridenour; a daughter, Elaine C. Ridenour; a brother, Dale E. Bowman; and a sister, Delores Clouse.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery in rural Corunna.

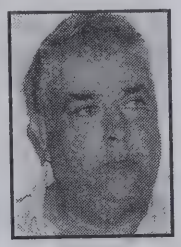
Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Northeast Indiana Kidney Center Renal Care Group.

Jack McHenry

GARRETT — Jack E. McHenry, 71, died Tuesday morning, Aug. 19, 2008, at his home in Garrett.

Mr. McHenry worked for 35 years as a heavy equipment operator for Operating Engineers Local 103. He was a member of the Auburn Moose and Altarstar United Methodist Church.


Mr. McHenry

He was born Oct. 21, 1936, Marshall, Mich., to the Carrol and Florence (Reed) McHenry.

He married Wanda Williams on May 8, 1955, Fort Wayne. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Jack Jr. and Shelley McHenry of Edwardsburg, Mich., Mark and Kim McHenry of Auburn and Glen and Bev McHenry of Auburn; three daughters and sons-in-law, Jill and Mike Newell of Warsaw, Linda and Stuart Clark of Maumee, and Trena and Ron Buesking of Harlan; 17 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Mary K. and Shears Tucker of Spencerville and Carolyn and Teddy M. Delagrange of Harlan.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. Burial will be in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Wayne Hoover

PLEASANT LAKE — Wayne K. Hoover, 80, of Pleasant Lake, died Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mr. Hoover owned and operated a dairy farm.

He was a member of the Pleasant Lake Methodist Church. He served for 15 years as chairman of the board for Farm Bureau Co-Op, was on the FHA Board and was a member of the Pleasant Lakes Lions Club.

He was born Oct. 26, 1927, in Waynedale to George and Garnet (Boger) Hoover. He married Leah Beverly on Sept. 12, 1948. She survives in Pleasant Lake.

Also surviving are a son and his companion, Tom Hoover and Darlene Moser of Pleasant Lake; a daughter, Linda and Bud Grogg of Angola; a brother, Don Hoover of Spencerville; three grandchildren, Beth Boyer, Chad Hoover and Derek Lipely; two stepgrandchildren, Scott and Chris Grogg; five great-grandchildren; and five step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Hoover; and a sister, Lois Murphy.

Services will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Pleasant Lake Methodist Church, with the Revs. Jim Hulbert and John Boyanowski officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Lake Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. There will be a Lions Club Service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to Pleasant Lake United Methodist Church and the American Lung Association.

THE EVENING STAR
August 21 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Roy Hardell

SPENCERVILLE — Roy Hardell, 92, died Monday morning, Aug. 18, 2008, in rural Spencerville.

Mr. Hardell managed a gas station for Colonial Oil in Fort Wayne.

He was born in Illinois on Nov. 9, 1915, to Andrew and Carrie Y. (Bennett) Hardell.

His wife, Vera (Papenbrock) Hardell, preceded him in death.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

Sandra Brown

AUBURN — Sandra Lee Brown, 68, formerly of Hudson, died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

She worked at Cooper Industrial Products for 39 years before retiring Feb. 26, 2000. She was a former member of the Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren, Ashley. She also was a union committee member, serving as Secretary.

Ms. Brown

She was born Oct. 14, 1939, in Hudson to Ford M. and Helen (Kline) Perkins.

Suriving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, George J.F. and Kelly Brown of Bailey, Mich., Chet A. and Doreen Brown of Garrett and Craig A. Brown of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Fred and Luwanna Perkins and Jerry and Terry Perkins, all of Hudson; and a sister and brother-in-law, Trudy and Steve Boyd of Hudson.

A memorial services will be Saturday at 7 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Calling will be Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Community Foundation.

Ida Hiemstra

STURGIS, Mich. — Ida F. Hiemstra, 85, of Sturgis, Mich., died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008, at the Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo, Mich.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law; Joan and David Alvey of Sturgis, two sons and daughters-in-law; John and Mary Hiemstra of Northville, Mich., and Walter and Lorrie Hiemstra of Angola; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several cousins.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Sturgis Church of Christ. Burial will follow at the Nottawa Cemetery in Nottawa, Mich.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Saturday at the Hackman Chapel in Sturgis.

Memorials are to the Sturgis Church of Christ Scholarship Fund.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
August 23 2008

Ellsworth Triplett

TUCSON, Ariz. — Ellsworth C. Triplett, 83, died July 25, 2008, in Tucson, Ariz.

He was an attorney and a retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force and later the U.S. Air Force, including service as a navigator in the European Theater during World War II.

After earning his law degree from Indiana University, he served the Air Force as a legal judge during the Korean conflict, served in the Judge Advocate General Corps and served in the Pentagon for five years. His military career spanned more than 30 years, and he received numerous medals including the Bronze Star and the National Service Defense Medal.

He received The Special Award of Honor from the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Arizona for more than 50 years of service to the legal profession. His hobbies included tennis.

He was born Sept. 12, 1924, in Waterloo.

Surviving are his wife of 37 years, Kathleen; a son, Scott Triplett of Virginia; two stepdaughters, Nancy Stephan of Tucson and Toni Marie and her husband, Brian, of Phoenix, Ariz.; and a granddaughter, Katrina Stephan of Tucson.

Memorials are to the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education, 4201 N. 24th St., Phoenix, AZ 85016.

THE EVENING STAR
August 24 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Casey was civic-minded pioneer

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — When Dr. Joseph Casey came to Angola in 1978 he was already a racial pioneer. Soon, however, Casey was able to leave a tremendous legacy in Steuben County as well.

Casey, who died July 11, grew up in Weaver, an African-American enclave near Marion. James Madison, a history professor at Indiana University who interviewed Casey about his experiences growing up in segregated Indiana for a book titled "A Lynching in the Heartland," said the area had been a black enclave since before the Civil War.

"Free blacks and former slaves created this wonderful community," Madison said. "There were a number of high-achieving families. The Casey family was one of those Weaver families. They were always very proud of that, honored with what they could achieve in this country."

What Casey had to overcome, Madison said, was the kind of prejudice that really isn't fathomable to many today.

"The degree to which the playing field was not level for Joe Casey was greater than anything we can imagine. He grew up in a community (Marion) where he was not allowed to go swimming in the community pool because of his skin."

Despite that, or in fact because of it, Madison said, Casey became a local leader in the Civil Rights movement.

"He was the first black member of the school board (elected in 1965). He worked very hard to hire black teachers in the schools," Madison said.

There previously had not been any black teachers in the district, despite a large black population. Eventually, Casey was elected president of the school board. He was honored as a Sagamore of the Wabash by Gov. Robert Orr in 1988.

Casey's story, however, doesn't end in Marion. He and his wife, Amye, moved to Fox Lake in Steuben County on a permanent basis in 1978, after Casey sold his Marion podiatry practice. He quickly became involved locally, serving as a member of the Angola Plan Commission and being appointed as the first African-American deputy coroner in Steuben County. He also worked to get more of the roads around Fox Lake paved. In 1990, following the death of his wife, he met Betty Rowe of Angola.

"We met on a blind date," the now Betty Casey said. "I had a friend in insurance. She had sold him insurance while his wife was still living. A few years later, I had tickets to an Easter pageant in Fort Wayne. She said, 'I'll find somebody,' and that's how we met."

That was 1990. They were married two years later.

"He was always involved in community activities all his life," Betty said. "He was interested in the welfare of people, education and the community." Casey was a part of the building of the first Habitat for Humanity house in Steuben County and was active in the Republican Party, Betty said.

Casey also served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II as a pharmacist's mate. He belonged to American Legion posts in Angola and in Marion.

Ellen Ballinger, Casey's step-daughter, said Casey was easy to be around.

"He was always upbeat, glad to see you. He would want to know what you were doing," Ballinger said. "He always had a warm handshake. You could tell he genuinely loved people. I miss him a lot."

Betty said Casey always had a way of relating to people well. He told her a story about helping to break up a fight between whites and blacks at a school function.

"He got them calmed down," she said. "He had a way of getting matters settled without getting irritated or angry."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Joseph Casey was a key figure in two communities. In his original home in Grant County, Casey was a racial pioneer, becoming the first African-American school board member and later board president. Later, after moving to Fox Lake in Steuben County, he remained active in many different pursuits.

While Casey kept many of the honors he'd received and clippings about his elections and awards, he didn't really like to think of himself as a pioneer. Betty Casey said this was because he felt he'd only done what he was supposed to.

"He did it because nobody else was doing it. He wouldn't have said he was a pioneer, he was very humble," Betty said.

Hazel Hart

WATERLOO — Hazel V. Hart, 101, of Waterloo died Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Hart was a secretary for Waterloo Lumber Co. for 14 years, retiring in 1971. She was a member of Waterloo United Methodist Church and a former membero of the Waterloo Professional Business Women's Organization.

Mrs. Hart

She was born June 2, 1907, in Churubusco to A.W. and Daisy (Rollins) Willard.

She married Raymond H. Hart on June 5, 1926, in Albion. He died Oct. 12, 1987.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Mary Moses of Kendallville, Helen and Carl Langheim of Eagleville, Pa., and Shirley and Don Cunningham of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and John Hart of Waterloo and Larry and Sheila Hart of Auburn; a daughter-in-law, Hazel M. Hart of Waterloo; 17 grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, Grace Wirick, Alice Krick, Bessie Deck and Eva Biancanellio.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. David Mathews will officiate. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery of Kendallville.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Betz Nursing Home Activity Fund.

James Benson

AUBURN — James W. Benson, 63, of Auburn died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Benson had been a self-employed publisher since 1989 and wrote for Tri State Racing Greats and Hometown Heroes.

He was a 1963 graduate of Auburn High School and a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. He was a member and served on the board of directors for the Indiana Northeast Racing Museum. He was a columnist for Marc Times Racing News and Mid American Racing News. He also was a coach for 15 years for the DeKalb Central Basketball League.

He was born Sept. 22, 1945, in Garrett to James W. Benson II and Joan D. (Pence) Benson.

He married Mary E. Surfus on June 19, 1969, in Coldwater, Mich. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, James W. Benson IV of Garrett and David R. Benson of Auburn; and two grandchildren, James W. "Jamey" Benson V and David A. Benson.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Diane Benson-Kessler.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandes will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, where the rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association.

Ruth Harvey

AUBURN — Ruth Laura Harvey, 76, of Auburn died Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008.

Mrs. Harvey was a wife, mother, and grandmother and had many other interests. She spent many hours volunteering her time helping several organizations. She was an active member of Tri Kappa Sorority, served the American Cancer Society by transporting patients to and from Fort Wayne for oncology treatments and delivered for Meals on Wheels for years. She also served on the boards of the YMCA and Eckhart Public Library.

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church for most of her life in Auburn and spent many hours organizing church bazaars, vacation Bible schools, weekly after school religious programs and Sunday school. She was choir director for the junior choir and sang in the church chancel choir for many years. She was a very strong supporter of the church's day care center.

She read, sang, camped, fished and traveled. She and her husband, John, traveled in their motor home to numerous rallies around the country. She was a fan of Indiana University sports.

She was born Jan. 17, 1932, to Earl E. and Ruth E. Shupe in Montclaire, N.J.

On May 1, 1954, she married Dr. John C. Harvey, who survives. They moved to Auburn in 1962.

Also surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Christie and Dan Krieger of Batesville, Shelley and Dave Burns of Bloomington and Mary Beth and Dean Switzer of Troy, Mont.; a son and daughter-in-law, Adam and Beth Harvey of Danville; nine grandchildren, Alexander, Leslie, Samuel, Aaron, Allison, McKenzie, John Amos, Elizabeth and Nathaniel; a sister, Beverly Wells of Auburn; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law; Richard C. and Elizabeth H. Quaintance of Winfield, Ill., and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

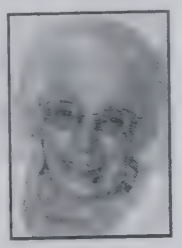
At her request, no public viewing or service will be held.

Memorials are to her favorite charities, DeKalb Humane Society and Eckhart Public Library, or a charity of the donor's choice.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct typographical errors. We apologize for the errors.*

Hazel Hart

WATERLOO — Hazel V. Hart, 101, of Waterloo died Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.


Mrs. Hart

Mrs. Hart was a secretary for Waterloo Lumber Co. for 14 years, retiring in 1971. She was a member of Waterloo United Methodist Church and a former member of the Waterloo Professional Business Women's Organization.

She was born June 2, 1907, in Churubusco to A.W. and Daisy (Rollins) Wlllard.

She married Raymond H. Hart on June 5, 1926, in Albion. He died Oct. 12, 1987.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Mary Moses of Kendallville, Helen and Carl Langheim of Eagleville, Pa., and Shirley and Don Cunningham of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Jo Hart of Waterloo and Larry and Sheila Hart of Auburn; a daughter-in-law, Hazel M. Hart of Waterloo; 17 grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, Grace Wirick, Alice Krick, Bessie Deck and Eva Biancanellio.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. David Mathews will officiate. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery of Kendallville.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Betz Nursing Home Activity Fund.

Andrew Wilbur

AUBURN — Andrew D. "Andy" Wilbur, 94, died Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Born in Sugar Run, Pa., he was a machinist with Auburn Gear for 30 years, retiring in 1976. He also was a professional photographer for 55 years. He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran.

Mr. Wilbur

He was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, where he was a Sunday school teacher, church librarian and board member. He was a photographer for the DeKalb County Boxing Club and delivered Meals on Wheels. He was named 1999 Older Hoosier of the Year and the Heimach Center Senior Citizen of the Year.

Surviving are his wife, Virginia P. Wilbur of Auburn; a son, Kevin D. Wilbur of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Michele Bauman and James Bauman Jr. of Avilla; and a granddaughter, Rebekah Bauman of Avilla.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ora Wilbur; a brother; and two sisters.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. prior to services Wednesday.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

THE EVENING STAR
August 28 2008 Auburn, Indiana

John Mason

CORUNNA — John J. Mason, 68, of Corunna died Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Mason was a former driver for the DeKalb County Highway Department. He was a member of the DeKalb County Horseman's Association and a former member of the Mid States Mule Association.

He was born Feb. 22, 1940, in Butler to Carl H. and Rhoda D. (Moore) Mason.

He married Meletta Roberts in 1964 in Garrett, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Danny and Machelle Mason of Hudson, Johnny Michael "Buzz" Mason of Corunna, Jeff Mason of Corunna and Aaron Mason of Corunna; Mark Crossley and Leila Crossley, whom he raised and considered as his own son and daughter; six grandchildren, Jessica Wilcox, Colton Mason, Joseph Mason, Nickolas Mason, Courtney Miller and Chayton Mason; a great-grandson, Keagon John Paul Townson; his stepmother, Roberta Mason of Lansing, Mich.; two sisters and a brother-in- law, Carla and Ed DeBoer of Falmouth, Mich., and Vickie Surbur of Jackson, Mich.; and three stepbrothers, Joe Rouff, Jerry Rouff and Terry Mason.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Carl Mason and Floyd Mason, and his stepfather, Wilson Kinney.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 0389 C.R. 12, Corunna. The Rev. Al Wingfield will officiate.

Calling will be Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR
August 29 2008 Auburn, Indiana

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted with additional information about surviving relatives.*

John Mason

CORUNNA — John J. Mason, 68, of Corunna died Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Mason was a former driver for the DeKalb County Highway Department. He was a member of the DeKalb County Horseman's Association and a former member of the Mid States Mule Association.

He was born Feb. 22, 1940, in Butler to Carl H. and Rhoda D. (Moore) Mason.

He married Meletta Roberts in 1964 in Garrett, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Danny and Machelle Mason of Hudson, Johnny Michael "Buzz" Mason of Corunna, Jeff Mason of Corunna and Aaron Mason of Corunna; a daughter, Toni Wilcox of Corunna; Mark Crossley and Leila Crossley, whom he raised and considered as his own son and daughter; six grandchildren, Jessica Wilcox, Colton Mason, Joseph Mason, Nickolas Mason, Courtney Miller and Chayton Mason; a great-grandson, Keagon John Paul Townson; his stepmother, Roberta Mason of Lansing, Mich.; two sisters and a brother-in- law, Carla and Ed DeBoer of Falmouth, Mich., and Vickie Surbur of Jackson, Mich.; and three stepbrothers, Joe Rouff, Jerry Rouff and Terry Mason.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Carl Mason and Floyd Mason, and his stepfather, Wilson Kinney.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 0389 C.R. 12, Corunna. The Rev. Al Wingfield will officiate.

Calling will be today from 5 to 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR
August 30 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Elizabeth Roy

KENDALLVILLE — Elizabeth K. Roy, 96, of Kendallville died at 3:25 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, in Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville, where she resided for the past three years.

Mrs. Roy moved to Kendallville in 2002 from Idaho. She had worked as a bookkeeper and office manager.

She studied classical piano at the University of Indianapolis School of Music, and traveled extensively across the country, having lived from New York City to Anchorage, Alaska.

On March 9, 1912, in El Paso, Texas, she was born to Frederick Charles and Florence (Cox) Knollenberg. She married Robert H. Roy. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Tom Greenfield of Corunna; three granddaughters, Carolyn Rushing and Cammy and Stacy Roy; and two great-grandsons.

In addition to her husband, a son, Robert F. Roy, preceded her in death.

There will be no services or calling.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
August 31 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Wife's love made husband better man

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

It took only two dates to know Retha Bloom was the woman Jack Ruger wanted to marry.

And he changed his life to make sure it happened.

"I was becoming an alcoholic when we met," Ruger said.

After meeting Retha, he went back to the tavern and told the guys he wouldn't be back.

"'You'll be back,' they told me." But he never returned.

"It was not that she was so deadly set against (drinking) — it was that I wanted to have her love," Ruger said.

He also quit smoking "cold turkey."

"It was just because of the power of love she had for me," he said.

They met through Ruger's sister, Marilyn, who worked with Retha at Mutual Security in Fort Wayne.

"I had it in my mind I was going to find a wife. I was 25 years old and ready to settle down," having recently been discharged from military service, Jack Ruger said. A native of Payne, Ohio, he was employed at International Harvester in Fort Wayne.

"I think she really fell in love with my '57 Chevy!" he said.

Not long after they met, he asked her to marry him while sitting in the turquoise-and-ivory-colored sedan, along the side of Chapman Road south of Garrett beside Cedar Creek.

Six months later, they were married at Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren, the church where his bride had grown up.

Retha sang, "I Love Thee, Dear" to her husband during the ceremony.

Retha Ruger died unexpectedly June 30 from cardiac arrest, a condition that most likely was associated with her diabetes.

Jack Ruger said his wife's aorta was narrowing rapidly, and she "shut down." She was 75.

Retha was diagnosed with the disease in her early 20s.

"Fifty years ago when we met, if we knew then what we know now (about diabetes), she'd still be here," Ruger said.

Much more information about the disease has been made available in the past 15-20 years, he explained.

Retha maintained a rigid diet that also benefited her husband, who dropped over 40 pounds in the first five years of their marriage.

"I was pretty chubby," he said.

"Retha is living proof that if you take care of yourself with diabetes, you can live a good, healthy life. She went to heaven with all of her toes," Ruger said of his wife.

Diabetes was believed to be a factor the loss of their two children as infants.

A few months following the death of their second child, they adopted a baby girl, Tammy. About 18 months later, they adopted their son, Brent.

"We're real proud of that," Ruger said of the additions to their family.

Retha and Jack took many vacations together later in life, traveling to Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Canada.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jack and Retha Ruger celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in March.

"I have so many good memories of her," Ruger said of his wife.

"I loved to travel, and she did, too. Her folks never did. Retha was always ready to go."

There wasn't a trip when Retha didn't come back all excited, he said. She had kept a journal of their travels.

"I could really have a lot of money if we didn't travel so much," Ruger often remarked.

Last winter, Jack suggested they invite their children and three grandchildren to join them on a cruise.

Retha's conservative nature took over when figuring the expense of adding nine more travelers to the trip that would originate in Puerto Rico.

"That's an awful lot of money to spend," she told Jack.

"'We don't know how long we're going to be here,' I told her. I didn't know how prophetic that was."

Pictures of the family enjoying that cruise were among many photos on display at the funeral home.

Jack and Retha didn't give each other Christmas gifts. Instead, they chose to contribute to Heifer International, a mission that originated in the Church of the Brethren that provides livestock for the needy in many countries. Their donation would help purchase a cow or lamb, or some chickens. Recipients of the livestock must then pass the animal's offspring to someone else in need, Ruger explained.

The couple marked their 50th wedding anniversary on March 29 while wintering in Texas.

Each year, a celebration is held at their mobile home park of about 200 people to mark special anniversaries. Only a few weeks shy of their own 50th, the couple were disappointed when they were told they would have to wait until next year. They were looking forward to showing Retha off in her wedding dress, in which she could still fit, Jack Ruger said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Retha Ruger looked forward to wearing her wedding dress at a celebration with friends in Texas this February.

Each year, a celebration is held at their mobile home park of about 200 people to mark special anniversaries. Only a few weeks shy of their own 50th, the couple were disappointed when they were told they would have to wait until next year. They were looking forward to showing Retha off in her wedding dress, in which she could still fit, Jack Ruger said.

Retha and Jack often found themselves helping out at St. Martin's Healthcare Clinic in Garrett, where their daughter, Tammy Stafford, is director. Retha served as a volunteer librarian once a week at J.E.Ober and St. Joseph schools in Garrett.

An avid reader, she poured over newspapers and magazines.

"She would have been a great journalist," Jack Ruger said.

Retha also loved to fish for bluegills and work in her garden.

"She had a green thumb — she loved her flowers," Ruger said.

"They were so, so wonderful together," said friend, Katrina Custer. "They were so perfect, they melded together."

Retha's diabetes made Jack take better care of himself.

"I didn't want to leave her. She always said no one would take care of her the way I did," he said.

The couple loved to go to open-air markets while on vacation, but seldom brought anything home. A boomerang hanging on the kitchen wall of their farm home is one of only a few souvenirs brought back from their travels.

"We were not collecting souvenirs," Jack said, "just memories. You can't take those away."

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
August 31 2008

Charles DeBaillie

AUBURN — Charles "Chuck" DeBaillie, 93, died Saturday, Aug. 30, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. DeBaillie was a farmer is Allen County for 85 years.

He was a member of the Lions Club, Eagles and St. Patricks Catholic Church in Arcola. He was born in Moline, Ill. He drove go-kart and played bingo.

He was married to Grace DeBaillie. She preceded him in death.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Crystal and Michael Hite of St. Joe; grandchildren, Connie Leege of Gansevoort, N.Y., Kevin Hite of Columbus, Ohio, Carol Rorick of Woodburn; and four great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a sister and five brothers.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Cyril Fernandes officiating. Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery in Arcola.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, and one hour prior to the service at the church Thursday. A vigil will at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday the funeral home.

Memorials are to Indiana FFA District III care of Carroll High School or Parkview Hospice.

2

Longtime Kendallville attorney, businessman Merritt Diggins, 94, dies

KENDALLVILLE — Merritt Diggins, 94, of Kendallville died at 11 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, at his residence.

He was a Kendallville businessman and attorney.

The Kendallville High School graduate also graduated from the Indiana University School of Law in 1936 and practiced law in the firm of Emerick & Diggins in Kendallville for more than 40 years.

He served on the local school board, was a member of the Emeritus Club at Indiana University, Kendallville Lions Club, the Kendallville Elks Club where he served as Exalted Ruler, and was one of the founders of the Kendallville Bank & Trust Co. He attended Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville.

Mr. Diggins had a wonderful sense of humor, and enjoyed fishing, mushroom hunting and he was and an avid bridge player.

On Dec. 29, 1913, in Kendallville, he was born to Frank and Inez (Black) Diggins. He married Anna Katherine Greenawalt on June 15, 1940. She preceded him in death on March 4, 2004.

Mr. Diggins

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Dianne and Craig Trees of Anderson; two sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Pat Diggins of Cullowee, N.C., and Dan and Nancy Diggins of Kendallville; nine grandchildren, Michael and Stephen Diggins, Matt and Meghan Trees, Amy and Luke Pridgeon, Betsy Trees and Bebe and Chris Hollingshead; two great-granddaughters, Hannah Pridgeon and Emma Trees; and two caregivers, Martha Debes and Dolores Chorpenning.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. G. Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist, Kendallville, officiating. Pallbearers will be Michael and Stephen Diggins, Matthew and Betsy Trees, and Bebe and Chris Hollingshead. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble Home Health and Hospice or the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Donald Irven

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Donald Leroy Irven, 87, of Okeechobee, Fla., died Monday, Sept. 1, 2008, at North Ridge Valley Nursing and Rehab in Albion.

Mr. Irven worked for International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 33 years retiring in 1974. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II. His pastimes were fishing, traveling and especially his family.

Mr. Irven

He was born March 6, 1921, in Auburn to Rollie and Edith (Stafford) Irven.

He married Dortha V. Cook on Nov. 22, 1941, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Ruth Ann and Larry J. Palmer of Albion and Doris May and Richard Leighty of Churubusco; one sister and brother-in-law, Dortha and Alfonzo Dominguez of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Matthew Palmer, Douglas Palmer, Jennifer Dodd, and Jeanie Perry; and four great-grandchildren, Bradley Palmer, Wesley Palmer, Alice Palmer and Michael Dodd.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Harold Irven.

A graveside service will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is handling arrangements.

Jonah Thompson

FORT WAYNE — Jonah Eli Thompson was stillborn Saturday, Aug. 30, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He is the son of Thomas T. and Valerie G. (Strong) Thompson of Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are four brothers, Daniel, Jacob, Carter and Garrett Thompson, all at home; a grandfather, Gary Strong of St. Joe; and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by grandparents Marilyn Jo Strong and Edwin K. and Edith E. Thompson.

Private family graveside services will be Wednesday at Newville Cemetery. Mike Kjergaard will officiate.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Laura Ruppert

ANGOLA — Laura A. Ruppert, 60, of Angola died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Ms. Ruppert was a homemaker.

She enjoyed reading.

She was born Jan. 18, 1948, to Norwalk, Conn., to Theodore and Laura (Clark) Souppa.

She is survived by a son, Roy Ruppert of Hamilton; a daughter and son-in-law, Dawn and Kevin Petre of Angola; two grandchildren, Ayreal and Dylan Petre; a great-grandchild, Ayries Powell; four sisters; and a brother.

She was preceded in death by a brother.

There are no services or calling.

Memorials are to the family for funeral expenses, care of Dawn Petre.

Sylvia Cole

WAWAKA — Sylvia Ann Cole, 30, of Wawaka died unexpectedly on Monday, Sept. 1, 2008, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She graduated from Lakeland High School in 1997, and worked at Courier Manufacturing in Kendallville about four years.

Mrs. Cole

Mrs. Cole enjoyed sewing and reading, and was a dedicated mother, taking care of her two boys and her home.

On Feb. 28, 1978, in Goshen, she was born to John David and Laura Mae (Niles) Charles. She married Johnny Edward Cole on Jan. 29, 2000, at New Freedom Baptist Church in LaGrange. He survives in Rome City.

Also surviving are her mother, Laura Charles of Rome City; her father, John Charles of Rome City; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Kandice Charles of Wolcottville; two sisters, Cari Charles of Butler, and Brenda Charles of Wolcottville; maternal grandmother Myrtle Kline of Kimmell; maternal great-grandparents Floyd and Vivian Heltzel of Rome City; paternal grandmother Stella Jacobs of Cromwell; two nieces; and three nephews.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at New Freedom Baptist Church in LaGrange with Pastor Wade Sturdivant officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery, Rome City.

Calling will be anytime after noon Thursday with an evening service at 7 p.m. at the church, 300 N. Sycamore St., LaGrange.

Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to hitefuneralhome.com.

Robert Woollweever

HAMILTON — Robert H. Woollweever, 65, of Hamilton died Sept. 2, 2008.

He was a retired truck driver and served in the U.S. Navy.

He enjoyed cards, bowling and bingo. He was a member of Orland American Legion Post No. 423.

He was born Aug. 11, 1943, in Stevens Point, Wis., to Adolph and Bernice (Cullen) Woollweever. He married Audrey Millhouse on Sept. 20, 1986. She survives.

He is also survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Vince Schroeder of Hanover, and Candi and Randy Jones of Garrett; two sons and a step-daughter, Robert Woollweever of Ashley, and Mark and Toni Woollweever of Columbia City; a stepdaughter, Cathy Nelson of Hamilton; two stepsons and spouses, Dale and Geri Millhouse of Fort Wayne, and Mike and Wendy Millhouse of Ashley; a sister, Janice McGrane of Duluth, Minn.; 15 grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers and a sister.

Services will be at noon Saturday at Waterloo Free Baptist Church in Waterloo, with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Cemetery, with Orland American Legion Post No. 423 conducting graveside services.

Calling will be two hours prior the services at the church.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct errors.*

Sylvia Cole

WAWAKA — Sylvia Ann Cole, 30, of Wawaka died unexpectedly on Monday, Sept. 1, 2008, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Cole

She graduated from Lakeland High School in 1997, and worked at Courier Manufacturing in Kendallville about four years.

Mrs. Cole enjoyed sewing and reading, and was a dedicated mother, taking care of her two boys and her home.

On Feb. 28, 1978, in Goshen, she was born to John David and Laura Mae (Niles) Charles. She married Johnny Edward Cole on Jan. 29, 2000, at New Freedom Baptist Church in LaGrange. He survives in Wawaka.

Also surviving are her mother, Laura Charles of Wolcottville; her father, John Charles of Rome City; two sons, Kristopher and John Cole of Wawaka; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Kandice Charles of Wolcottville; two sisters, Cari Charles of Butler, and Brenda Charles of Wolcottville; maternal grandmother Myrtle Kline of Kimmell; maternal great-grandparents Floyd and Vivian Heltzel of Rome City; paternal grandmother Stella Jacobs of Cromwell; two nieces; and three nephews.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at New Freedom Baptist Church in LaGrange with Pastor Wade Sturdivant officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery, Rome City.

Calling will be anytime after noon Thursday with an evening service at 7 p.m. at the church, 300 N. Sycamore St., LaGrange.

Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to hitefuneralhome.com.

Helen Stemen-Kaiser

EDGERTON, Ohio — Helen May Stemen-Kaiser, 86, of Edgerton and a former long-time resident of Butler, died early Tuesday morning, Sept. 2, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Stemen-Kaiser attended Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and was a former member of the Butler Eagles and Butler American Legion Auxiliary. She was a member of the Butler Bowling League for 40 years and a former Bowler of the Year at Butler Lanes.

She was employed as a secretary in the records department at DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 10 years, retiring in 1978, and before that she had worked at Universal Tool in Butler for 11 years.

She was born March 15, 1922, in DeKalb County to Henry and Louise (Palmer) Bry.

She married Homer Stemen on Dec. 11, 1940, and he died in 1968.

She then married Robert Kaiser on February 14, 1970, and he died in 1974.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Marge and Jim Myers of Huntertown and Karen and Brad Karris of Fort Wayne; one son and daughter-in-law, James and Elaine Stemen of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two stepchildren, Steve Kaiser of Lenoir, N.C., and Sheri Piper of Reading, Mich.; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; several stepgreat grandchildren; and two sisters, Virginia Finley and Bess Hornet, both of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Marsha Faye Stemen; three brothers, Sam, Charles and Bud Bry; and a sister, Mildred.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Krill Funeral Home at Edgerton, Ohio. Burial will follow in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at krillfuneralservice.com.

Wayne Shook

SPENCERVILLE — Wayne L. Shook, 87, died Tuesday evening, Sept. 2, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Shook

Mr. Shook retired in 1969 from Shook's Gift & Decorating Store in Auburn, which he owned. He graduated from Spencerville High School and attended Indiana University, where he was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity.

He was a World War II Army veteran, serving with the 70th Division. He was a medic and earned the Purple Heart after being wounded in a battle in France. He was a life member of Leo American Legion Post 409 and a charter member of the Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association. In 1971, he received the award of District Tree Farmer of the Year.

He was born in Spencerville on Sept. 5, 1920, to Donald and Ursa (Mills) Shook.

His first wife, Marjorie (Craig) Shook, preceded him in death on Feb. 7, 1987.

He married Iris Lovinger on Feb, 14, 1990. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and George Dykhuizen of Grand Rapids, Mich.; three grandchildren, Craig Dykhuizen of Milwaukee, Wis., Leslie West of Anchorage, Alaska, and Scott Dykhuizen of Grand Rapids, Mich.; two great-grandsons, Ryan and Jason Dykhuizen; a sister, Evelyn Jewell-Harmon of Powell, Ohio; a stepson and his wife, Gary and Cheryl Lovinger of Fort Wayne; and two step-grandchildren, Alyssa and Matthew Lovinger.

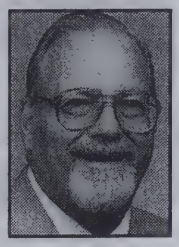
A memorial service will be Saturday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. The family will receive friends after 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Indiana Forestry Educational Foundation, 1007 N. 725 West, West Lafayette, IN 47906, or the Eastside Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 395, Butler, IN 46721.

Richard Norris

AUBURN — Richard J. Norris, 80, of Auburn died Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Norris was a band director at Hamilton Public Schools from 1952 to 1957, Auburn Public Schools from 1957 to 1966, the DeKalb County Central United School District from 1966 to 1993 and St. Jude Elementary and Junior High School, part-time from 1995 to 2004.


Mr. Norris

He was a woodwind consultant for Eastside High School from 1996 to 2002, director of the Auburn Community Band from 1982 to 2004, choir director at St. Mark's Lutheran Church from 1983 to 2000 and worked at various band camps during the summers.

He was on the board of directors of IMEA, president of NISBOVA and IBA in 1977, and served two years on the board of directors for Phi Beta Mu and ASBDA.

He received the Auburn Arts Commission Medal of Arts award in 1995 for dedication of his musical talents to the community. In 2004, he was named a Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest civilian award given by the governor of Indiana. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran.

He was a 1946 graduate of South Side High School in Fort Wayne and received a Bachelor of Music degree from Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y., in 1952. He received a Master of Arts degree from Ball State University in 1960.

His hobbies were music, golf and collecting lighthouses. He was a Civil War historian.

He was born May 10, 1928, in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his wife, Margery E. Norris of Auburn; two sons and daughters-in-law, Gregory and Cindy of Fort Wayne and Jeffery and Lori of Carmel; and five grandchildren, Ashley, Matt, Alli, Kelsey and Ryan.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Austin.

Services will be Monday at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Ninth and Van Buren streets, Auburn, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church or the Auburn Community Band.

Girley Mae Burtz

FREMONT — Girley Mae (Hicks) Burtz, 50, of Fremont died Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital, Angola. She had been ill since March.

Girley Mae Burtz

She lived in Noble County most of her life, and worked as a cashier at Wal-Mart in Angola, and had previously worked at Tenneco Automotive in Ligonier for 12 years.

She enjoyed fishing and the outdoors.

On March 8, 1958, she was born in the family home in Nolan, W.Va., to Dallas Sr. and Ida (Smith) Hicks. She made her home for the past 12 years with Terry Baumgartner. He survives in Fremont.

Also surviving are four sons and two daughters-in-law, Zack and Jessica Girardot of Fort Wayne, Matthew and Christina Baumgartner of Fort Wayne, Jack Laymon of Garrett, and Terry Levi Baumgartner of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Teah and Chris Finton of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren, Anthony Jason Laymon, Erin Baumgartner, Hailie Girardot, Shawn Baumgartner and Isaiah Laymon; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Lynn Schlabach of Garrett and Alva and Darin Metzger of Kendallville; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Gary and Donna Hicks of Rome City and Dallas Jr. and Lisa Hicks of Garrett; five nieces; and six nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Full Gospel Revival Center, Rome City, with the Rev. Ruben VanHoose Jr. officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery, Rome City. Pallbearers will be Matthew Schlabach, Dallas Hicks Jr., Chris Finton, John Price. Ruben Hicks, Darin Metzger and Adam Svoboda.

Calling will be Sunday after 3 p.m. until the time of Monday's service at the church.

Memorials are to the Angola Cancer Organization.

Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottvile Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

View a video tribute after Sunday or send condolences online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Elvena Karst

KENDALLVILLE — Elvena C. Shoudel Karst, 93, of Kendallville died Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She worked at the Economy Market in Wolcottville, was a former waitress at the V&A Restaurant in Kendallville, and worked at Wal-Mart in Kendallville.

The Ashley High School graduate was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville, and a member of the church's Rosary Society. She was a resident of the Lamplighter in Kendallville.

Mrs. Karst loved to paint, cook, make rosaries and was known for her sewing, quilting and making baby blankets.

On Oct. 27, 1914, in Waterloo, she was born to Joseph B. and Madgalen (Blomeke) Miller. She married Michael Shoudel in February 1938 and he preceded her in death in October 1972. She married Henry Karst in May 1973, and he preceded her in death in May 2003.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Mary Shoudel of Garrett; two daughters and sons-in-law, Mary and Dennis DeLucenay of Speedway and Patricia and Kenneth Kleinrichert of Traverse City, Mich.; three stepsons and stepdaughters-in-law, Ronald and Sue Karst of Kentucky, Jerry and Patsy Karst of Kendallville, and Dennis and Julie Karst of Ossian; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; a stepgrandchild; two stepgreat-grandchildren; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Rosena McQuin of Ligonier, and Zella Ann and Paul Collins of Butler.

Preceding her in death were a brother, Ambrose Miller; three sisters, Thelma Schorgen, Martha Szeman and Isabel Luke; a granddaughter, Karla Kleinrichert; and a great-grandson, Joshua Kleinrichert.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday at St. Michael's Catholic Church, rural Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, and also from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the church on Monday. The Rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview North Home Health and Hospice or Masses to the church.

Wilma Ginder

FORT WAYNE — Wilma M. Ginder, 86, died Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008, at Renaissance Village in Fort Wayne.

Born in Butler, she was an assembler with Magnavox Corp. for 40 years.

She graduated from Butler High School and was a member of Anthony Wayne First Church of God.

Surviving a daughter, Brenda Ginder-Seabold of Fort Wayne; and two grandsons, Sam Seabold and Thomas Seabold, both of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul H. Ginder, in 1966; a daughter, Karen; three sisters and three brothers.

Services will be Monday at 7 p.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Jerry Blanchard officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Christian Lewellyn

AUBURN — Christian Glen Lewellyn, 90, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 5, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Lewellyn was a truck driver for Norwalk Truck Line for 20 years then for Gladieux Refinery for 14 ½ years before retiring in April 1984. He was a World War II Army veteran and a former member of Butler American Legion Post 202 and First Christian Church of Auburn.

He was born Dec. 20, 1917, in Goodland to Thomas and Eixe (Cuningham) Lewellyn.

He married Betty Cobb on June 22, 1952, and she survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dean and Kathy Lewellyn of Auburn; a granddaughter, Angie Koegler of Kendallville; two great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Beatrice Blank.

There will be no calling or services.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Diggins remembered for law expertise

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — He was a Main Street businessman and attorney for more than 40 years who enjoyed the banter with friends for coffee at former downtown landmarks like the Palace of Sweets and Klinkenberg's.

Those places are gone and so is he but his law office remains along with his name in Kendallville's downtown business district through his son.

Merritt Diggins, 94, died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, at his rural Kendallville residence. Services were held Wednesday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel.

"My dad inspired me to go into law," said his son, Kendallvile attorney Dan Diggins, who now practices law from his father's office at 218 S. Main St.

Mr. Diggins graduated from Kendallville High School at the great pleasure of the principal who said, "I am glad you're graduating. We will now run the school," Pastor Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist related at the funeral services. He graduated from the Indiana University School of Law in 1936 and returned to Kendallville to practice family law. With his partner Rex Emerick, they opened a law office above Swartzlander's jewelry store and later Mr. Diggins with Rex's son, Stan Emerick, moved the office to the current South Main Street location.

Dan Diggins joined the law firm in 1972, and his father retired in 1976. "He didn't fully retire then. He still came to the office and did some work for years afterward," Dan Diggins said.

Noble County Senior Judge Robert Probst remembered Mr. Diggins as a zealous advocate for his clients. "I had the awesome task of trying some cases against Merritt," he said.

Probst recalled a civil personal injury trial that was appealed. The case was assigned for oral argument before the Indiana Court of Appeals. Mr. Diggins drove both of them to Indianapolis for the argument.

"I especially recall that it did not take us long to get there and back, and we had a wonderful visit during the trip," said Probst. The decision in that case made led to change in the way instructions were made to juries. The instruction was set out in the first Indiana Pattern Jury Instruction Manual that was published, and it is still in use in the manual now published by the Indiana Judges Association with their case cited as authority.

Mr. Diggins

Mr. Diggins' legacy lives on through Indiana's legal system.

Fishing in Canada and mushroom hunting in Michigan were two of Mr. Diggins' favorite activities. Imagine the teasing among friends around the table for morning coffee or lunchtime snacks when Mr. Diggins described his latest catch or mushroom find.

"I recall hearing stories as a child about trout fishing trips he took with my father to Canada where they traveled by canoe up a small river to a lake," said Probst. The two had to cross several beaver dams and travel by foot along logging trails. Meals were cooked on a wood stove in a log cabin, and a spring served as a refrigerator. "You were truly a fisherman to take those trips and Merritt loved it."

Education and community involvement were important to Mr. Diggins. "He followed me in sports in high school, and my brother and sister's school activities," said Dan Diggins. Mr. Diggins served on the East Noble School Board of Trustees, and was instrumental in the East Noble consolidation process. His son has been the school corporation's attorney for many years.

Mr. Diggins was one of the founders of Kendallville Bank & Trust Co. in 1962 (now Chase Bank in Kendallville), a member of the Kendallville Lions Club and Kendallville Elks where he served as Exalted Ruler.

"He loved to talk about sports," said his son Dan. He was an avid bridge player who loved the game's competition. Imagine the banter these topics created when Mr. Diggins and his friends gathered for friendly conversation.

He had a hearty laugh and loved practical jokes. "Merritt had a wonderful sense of humor, but he also did not put up with foolishness," said Pattison. "He not only had a great deal of character but he was a character."

Mr. Diggins was born on Dec. 29, 1913, in Kendallville, to Frank and Inez (Black) Diggins. He married Anna Katherine Greenwalt on June 15, 1940. She preceded him in death on March 4, 2004. "He and Anne enjoyed vacations to South Padre Island, Texas, and Florida," recalled Probst. "He loved to walk on the beach," said his son Dan.

Surviving in addition to his son Dan and Dan's wife Nancy, are a daughter and son-in-law, Dianne and Craig Trees of Anderson; a son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Pat Diggins of Cullowee, N.C.; nine grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and two caregivers, Martha Debes and Dolores Chorpenning.

"He loved his children, and loved fishing with his grandkids, teaching them many things about barns, tractors and squirrels," said Pattison. "He loved holding and interacting with the great-grandkids."

Mr. Diggins appreciated his caregivers, Martha and Dolores, even though he was known to get their names wrong and called them the devil. He knew they were pushing him to get better in his declining years, said Pattison.

"Merritt was a mentor to attorneys, young and old, and he set a high standard in the practice of law and leaves a great legacy," said Probst. The legacy is spelled D-I-G-G-I-N-S on the front door of the law office on South Main Street.

Mr. Diggins is buried in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble and Hospice or the American Heart Association.

THE EVENING STAR
September 7 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Tom Dunn

AUBURN — Tom A. Dunn, 56, of Auburn died Saturday Sept. 6, 2008, at his home in Auburn.

Mr. Dunn was a lifelong self-employed owner and operator of A-1 Janitorial Service. He was a member and trustee of the Auburn Elks. His entire life he was an avid sportsman and he golfed.

He was born on Jan. 8, 1952, in Garrett to Edwin "Bud" and Lucille "Lucy" (Smith) Dunn. They both preceded him in death.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Damian and Cassie Dunn of Fort Wayne; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Ed Dunn of Auburn, Jim and Becky Dunn of Waterloo; and one sister and brother-in-law, Barb and Jim Heller of Auburn.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Jim Glover will officiate.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home. There will be an Elks service conducted Monday at 8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Community Foundation, Rieke Park Fund, P.O. Box 111, Auburn.

Evelyn Dalrymple

GARRETT — Evelyn M. Dalrymple, 83, of Fremont died Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at Lakeland Nursing Home in Angola.

Mrs. Dalrymple was a homemaker and a member of Tri Kappa Sorority and the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

She was born March 11, 1925, in Garrett to Jacob W. and Eliza B. (Chambers) Richmond.

She married Daryl E. Dalrymple on March 17, 1945, in Del Ray Beach, Fla. He survives in Fremont.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, David and Lynn Dalrymple of Fremont and Timothy Dalrymple of Douglas, Mich.; a granddaughter, Angie Dalrymple of Chicago; a grandson, Dan Dalrymple of East Lansing, Mich.; a brother, Earl Richmond of Auburn; and a sister, Inez Walter of Kinderhook, Mich.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Wilford and James Dalrymple; and three sisters, Alma Burtch, Hilda Mahnesmith and Wanda Richmond.

A graveside memorial service will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett. Pastor John Willoughby will officiate.

Memorials are to the Humane Society of Steuben County.

To sign an online register book or send a condolence, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Sandra Roe-Griggs

LEO — Sandra Kaye Roe-Griggs, 65, of Leo died Sunday evening, Sept. 7, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She worked as a registered nurse for about 45 years.

She was born March 27, 1943, in Wausau, Wis., to Morris and Clara (Kauss) Bates. Her mother survives in Wittenberg, Wis.

She married Aubrey Wedzel Griggs on Nov. 7, 1997, in Allen County, and he survives in Leo.

Also surviving are two daughters, Cheryl Ann Roe of St. Louis, Mo., and Kelly Rae Roe of Mosinee, Wis.; three stepdaughters and spouses, Barbara Kay and Bob Swaim of Leo, Lori and Randall Miller of Leo and Julie and James Kelley of Leo; two grandchildren, Jason and Nicole Wysocki; seven stepgrandchildren; and a brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Carol Bates of Winchester, Wis.

A time of remembrance will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Allen County SPCA, 4914 Hanna St., Fort Wayne, IN 46806.

James Green

PLEASANT LAKE — James C. Green, 76, of Pleasant Lake died Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, at his home.

Mr Green worked in construction, and worked as a stone crusher for the Steuben County Highway Department for 11 years.

He was a member of the Assembly Church of God in Angola, and the Angola Masonic Lodge No. 236 of F&AM. He enjoyed word search puzzles, working in his shop and building trailers.

He was born Oct. 2, 1931, in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, to Marmont and Odessa (Long) Green. He married Faye Cummings on April 16, 1966, in Shererville. She died Feb. 5, 2005.

He is survived by six sons and two daughters-in-law, Mike and Lois Green of Fremont, James and Valinda Green of Griffith, Joe Green of Fremont, Ray Green of Pleasant Lake, Andrew Green of Wolcottville, and Matthew Green; six daughters and three sons-in-law, Catherine Sewell and Mary Green, both of Fremont, Mona and Kevin McDaniels of Iron Mountain, Mich., Shirley and Shane Williams of Fremont, Michelle and Don Rau of Edon, Ohio, and Jennifer Green of Butler; four brothers, Leland and Raymond Green of Kansas, Ohio, Delmar Green of Kokomo, and Harley Green of Fremont, Ohio; three sisters, Lillian Easterwood of Oak Harbor, Ohio, Mary Kultz of Gibsonburg, Ohio, and Veda Curry of West Millgrove, Ohio; 21 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Marmont "Buzz" and Buster Green; and two sisters, Beaulah Harrison and Shirley Green.

There are no services or calling.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Earl Skelly

WATERLOO — Earl Skelly, 94, of Waterloo died Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, at his home surrounded by his family.

Mr. Skelly

Mr. Skelly was a lifetime Fairfield Township farmer and worked at Dana Corp. in Auburn for 27 years, retiring in 1978. He was a member and former trustee and deacon of Cedar Lake Church of Christ. He was a graduate of Ashley High School in the class of 1931. He was a member of DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

He was born Oct. 21, 1913, in Ashley to Ray and Reba (Reed) Skelly.

He married Arcille Smith on Feb. 2, 1935, in Garrett. She died Feb. 5, 1990.

He then married Edna Rakestraw on June 25, 1992, in Waterloo. She died Jan. 8, 2007.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Eldon and Marlene Skelly of Hamilton, John and Lois Skelly of Fort Wayne and Donald "Butch" and Kathy Skelly of Ashley; three daughters and a son-in-law, Carolyn Sue and Everitt Reinoehl of Waterloo, Ellen Wilson of Waterloo and Dianna Owen of Rushville; a daughter-in-law, Debbie Stillwell and her husband, Don, of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Harold and Laurine Skelly of Waterloo; a sister, Iris Thomas of Ashley; 19 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; 17 great-great-grandchildren; a stepson and his wife, Kenny and Mary Rakestraw of Waterloo; three stepdaughters and their husbands, Linda and Steve Berkenbeul of Coldwater, Mich., Rita and Fred Rice of Indianapolis and Carol Rakestraw and her friend, Al France, of Auburn; nine stepgrandchildren; and six stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Larry Skelly; two sons-in-law, Steve Owen and Steve Wilson; two granddaughters, Sharon and Karen Wilson; two great-grandsons, Kyle Skelly and Corey Skelly; two sisters, Doris Skelly and Gladys Skelly; and two brothers, Orla Skelly and Gerald Skelly.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Brian Wilcox will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery of rural Corunna.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice, Woodburn Children's Home or Lake James Christian Assembly.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted to include additional information.*

James Green

PLEASANT LAKE — James C. Green, 76, died Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Green worked in construction, and worked as a stone crusher for the Steuben County Highway Department for 11 years.

He was a member of the Assembly Church of God in Angola, and the Angola Masonic Lodge No. 236 of F&AM. He enjoyed word search puzzles, working in his shop and building trailers.

He was born Oct. 2, 1931, in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, to Marmont and Odessa (Long) Green. He married Faye Cummings on April 16, 1966, in Shererville. She died Feb. 5, 2005.

He is survived by six sons and two daughters-in-law, Mike and Lois Green of Fremont, Ohio, James and Valinda Green of Griffith; Joe Green of Fremont, Ray Green of Pleasant Lake, Andrew Green of Wolcottville, and Matthew Green; six daughters and three sons-in-law, Catherine Sewell and Mary Green, both of Fremont, Ohio, Mona and Kevin McDaniels of Iron Mountain, Mich., Shirley and Shane Williams of Fremont, Michelle and Don Rau of Edon, Ohio; and Jennifer Green of Butler; four brothers, Leland and Raymond Green of Kansas, Ohio, Delmar Green of Kokomo, and Harley Green of Fremont, Ohio; three sisters, Lillian Easterwood of Oak Harbor, Ohio, Mary Kultz of Gibsonburg, Ohio, and Veda Curry of West Millgrove, Ohio; 21 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Marmont "Buzz" and Buster Green; and two sisters, Beaulah Harrison and Shirley Green.

There are no services or calling.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Dorothy Peterson

AUBURN — Dorothy A. Peterson, 81, died Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at Wesley Health Care Center in Auburn.

Born in Auburn, she was a machine operator with Weatherhead Angola for 12 years and with Essex Wire for one year, retiring in 1960.

Mrs. Peterson

Surviving are a grandson, Chris Straw of Auburn; great-grandchildren Lucas, Alex and Autumn Straw, all of Auburn; a sister, Barbara Miller of California; and three nieces.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dan Straw; a nephew; two brothers, Lee and James Muzzillo; and three sisters, Yolanda Dietrich, Wreath Jones and Hilda Dietrich.

A graveside service will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery, 1605 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Donald Woodring Sr.

NEW HAVEN — Donald L. Woodring Sr., 76, of New Haven died Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in Allen County, he was the son of the late Edward and S. Janet Woodring. He was a member of St. Louis Catholic Church-Besancon, New Haven. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a member of American Legion Post 330, New Haven, and retired in 1992 from Haughk Plumbing and Heating, Decatur.

Surviving are a son, Joseph Woodring of Waterloo; six daughters and sons-in-law, Marianne and Paul Koble of Garrett, Alice and Jerome Erpelding of Woodburn, Evelyn and David Hoaglin of Convoy, Ohio, Ramona and Dennis McKay of New Haven, Sally Woodring and Jeff of Fort Wayne, and Cynthia and Pat Sandoval of New Haven; a sister, Marie Treesh of Auburn; 11 grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Anna Marie, in 2004; a son, Donald Jr., in 2005; three brothers; two grandsons; and one great-grandson.

A prayer service will be Friday at 9:15 a.m.at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 S.R. 930 East, New Haven followed by a service at 10 a.m. at St. Louis Catholic Church-Besancon, 15535 Lincoln Highway East, New Haven. Father Steve Colchin will officiate. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne, with military graveside honors by American Legion Post 330.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home, with the rosary recited at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or American Heart Association.

Irene Riggs

BUTLER — Irene Riggs, 84, of Butler died Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Riggs was a former Auburn Rubber Co. employee, working there 14 years. She also was a custodian for DeKalb Central Schools for 13 years before retiring in 1986.

Mrs. Riggs

She was a member of New Hope Christian Center and attended Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church. She taught Sunday school for 30 years.

She was born Jan. 6, 1924, to William G. and Beulah (Headley) Sechler.

She married John P. Riggs on Dec. 23, 1939, in Auburn. He died April 9, 2004.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, John W. and Dianne Riggs of Butler; two daughters and a son-in-law, Nadean Nicholas of Auburn and SusAnn and Donald Ludeker of Butler; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; three stepgreat-grandchildren; and six stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Willis Reinhart, and a sister, Larue Rickerd.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. The Rev. Michael Halferty will officiate.

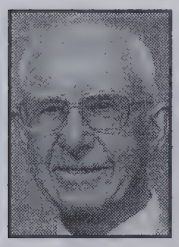
Calling will be Thursday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Hospice.

Dee Steininger

GRABILL — Dee Gilbert Steininger, 96, of Grabill died Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, at the Cedars Retirement Home in Leo.

Mr. Steininger was a former Grabill businessman, having started the Courier Printing Co. in 1949. He was a printer most of his life. He retired from Fort Wayne General Printing Corp. in 1977. He was a member of Grabill Missionary Church.


Mr. Steininger

He was born Aug. 14, 1912, in Cass County to Forest and Viola (Lusher) Steininger.

On Jan. 6, 1935, he married Wilma (Weaver). She died Dec. 3, 1991.

On Oct. 8, 1994, he married Doris (Amstutz, Linn). She died Aug. 5, 2008.

Surviving are a sister, Wanda (Bowman); two brothers and sisters-in-law, Emmett and Peg Steininger of Auburn and Hubert and Marcie Steininger of Auburn; four daughters and their spouses, Carmen and Edwin Bateman of Granger, Marilyn and Loren DeLong of Pleasant Lake, Rita Jean and Norma Schindler of Woodburn and Ruth Anne and Alan Marvel of Fort Worth, Texas; a son, James of Dunedin, Fla.; 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Dwight, Leo and William; and a grandson, Kenneth DeLong.

Services will be Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Grabill Missionary Church. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 4 to 8 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Grabill Missionary Church.

Hockemeyer Funeral Home of Harlan is handling arrangements.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being republished with information about additional relatives.*

Dorothy Peterson

AUBURN — Dorothy A. Peterson, 81, died Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at Wesley Health Care Center in Auburn.

Mrs. Peterson

Born in Auburn, she was a machine operator with Weatherhead Angola for 12 years and with Essex Wire for one year, retiring in 1960. She was known locally as an artist.

Surviving are a grandson, Chris Straw of Auburn; great-grandchildren Lucas, Alex and Autumn Straw, all of Auburn; a sister, Barbara Miller of California; 19 nieces and nephews; 26 great-nieces and great-nephews; and several great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Peterson; a son, Dan Straw; two nephews; two brothers, Lee and James Muzzillo; and three sisters, Yolanda Dietrich, Wreath Jones and Hilda Dietrich.

A graveside service was today at 10:30 a.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery, 1605 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Philip Strahm

AUBURN — Philip W. Strahm, 95, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Strahm was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in the European Theater. After his discharge, he returned to Auburn and became a partner with his brother-in-law, M.E. Haite, in the National 5 & 10 Cent Stores Inc., at one time operating stores in Auburn, Butler, Syracuse and Bryan, Ohio. He retired from the variety store in 1976.

Mr. Strahm

In 1983, he assumed the duties of bailiff in DeKalb Circuit Court on a part-time basis. He served under Judge Harold Stump and Judge Paul Cherry, retiring in 1996.

Mr. Strahm was an active member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Auburn. On Dec. 5, 1999, he was recognized for outstanding dedication and faithful service as congregational treasurer for nearly 40 years.

He was a member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn. DeKalb Lodge No. 214 Free and Accepted Masons, Mizpah Temple Shrine and Cedar Creek Shrine Club. He was a former member of Rotary International.

He was born Feb. 10, 1913 in Kenton, Ohio, to Chris and Florence (Stevenson) Strahm.

On Feb. 27, 1940, he married Ruth Nagle. She died in May 2006.

Surviving are a son, Ronald Strahm of Auburn; a grandson, Philip Strahm of Auburn; a granddaughter, Shannon Harger of Auburn; a great-granddaughter, Kyann Strahm; and a sister, Dorothy Van Buskirk of Bellefontaine, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by two sisters and four brothers.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn. Interment will be in the Auburn Mausoleum.

Calling will be Monday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church. A Masonic lodge service will begin at 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church or a charity of the donor's choice.

Michael Deller

ANGOLA — Michael Lee Deller, 51, of Angola died at 6:25 a.m. Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at University Park Nursing Home, Fort Wayne.

On March 24, 1957, in Angola, he was born to Robert and June (Wagoner) Deller.

Survivors include a son, Michael Lee Deller Jr. of California; a daughter, Angel Marie Deller of California; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Tom and Karen Deller of Angola, Robert Deller of Auburn, and William Deller of Fort Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, with Pastor Craig Burkholder officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Shirley Worden

AUBURN — Shirley D. Worden, 77, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne after a six-month battle with cancer.

Mrs. Worden retired from Fort Wayne Poster in 1994. Her passions were horses and playing games. She was a member of the Bar None Saddle Club in Auburn and the Leo United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Worden

She was born March 18, 1931, in Berne to Daniel and Esther (Bauman) Striker.

She married Kenneth E. Worden in 1948. He died in 1994.

Surviving are four children and their spouses, Eugene and Jeanne Worden of Auburn, Debora of Churubusco, Bret and Denise Worden of Wolcottville and Deanna of Butler; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Marinel and Earl Sprunger of Berne; a sister-in-law and her husband, Rosalyn and Bob Neuenschwander of Decatur; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Claude and James Striker.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Ed Grable officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Monday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to Parkview Home & Hospice or Leo United Methodist Church.

Zuber valued family, community

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Douglas Zuber was, both his wife and mother said, a man who loved not only his family but his community as a whole.

Zuber died Aug. 24 while boating on Lake James. Zuber was the co-owner of SOS Service in Angola and the former president of TydenBrammall.

"Doug was just all about family," said Linda Zuber, his wife. "We have a lot of really great memories because he made sure to do things with our kids."

Because his father died when he was a teenager, Linda said, Doug stayed home during his college years, attending Tri-State University, while helping his mother with his younger brother, Patrick.

"He never really left Steuben County, because of that reason," she said. "He thought people needed him."

Eloise Zuber, his mother, said Doug was always helping his family.

"He was a very good son. He was very good to his family," she said. After Doug's brother, Patrick, died in 2006, she said, he would either stop in or call each day to talk with her.

When he was hired by TydenBrammall — then Brammall — he was 16 years old.

"They hired him because his dad was working there," she said. He would wash floors and go on jobs, along with performing general maintenance work.

"They kept him on after his dad passed away," Eloise said.

What began as maintenance work became a career after college, eventually leading to Doug becoming company president.

"He worked really hard," Linda said. "Many nights, he would walk and walk, trying to sort out if he was doing the right thing for the company."

When TydenBrammall was purchased, and Zuber retired from the company in 1999, he was given the option to purchase SOS Service, which was a part of Brammall at the time.

"SOS meant a lot to him," Linda said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Douglas Zuber's wife Linda, center left, said Zuber helped to create many memories for their family.

Pictured are Zuber, Linda Zuber, and daughter Allison Fraser, and son Chris Zuber.

Troy Swager worked with Zuber at SOS, which he purchased Jan. 1, 2000.

"The SOS division he became involved with was the original division of Brammall. Doug's father was one of the original people who founded Brammall, it went through several name changes and got bigger," Swager said.

Zuber, he said, did all he could to help his employees be happy where they were.

"He worked very hard in creating a work environment that was not only a good place to earn a living, but also a good place to work. He strived to make sure everyone could look at a bright future," Swager said.

That effort extended into the community. Zuber was active in a number of area organizations, including the Land O Lakes Lions Club, receiving a Melvin Jones Fellowship award for humanitarian work.

He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and took pride in marching in parades with the group, Linda said.

Zuber was also a major supporter of R.I.S.E. Inc., and had just begun to serve on the organization's board this year. Denise Payton of R.I.S.E. said the organization was something Zuber cared about deeply.

"He dedicated a lot of time and talent to helping people with disabilities," Payton said. " He's truly been invaluable."

Zuber brought R.I.S.E. one of its first large contracts, providing parts assembly jobs for many R.I.S.E. clients. Payton said she wasn't quite sure why Zuber was so dedicated, only that she was grateful he was.

"He just had a big heart and believed in helping others and doing good things." Payton said the organization's October fundraiser, "Tastes, Sights and Sounds of the Lakes," will be dedicated to Zuber's memory this year.

Linda Zuber said her husband's spirit was also an adventurous one. The Zubers traveled all over the world, including multiple trips to the Caribbean, Mexico, France and Hawaii. Zuber went whitewater rafting on the Gauley River in West Virginia, considered among the more difficult rapids in the world, and hiked the Grand Canyon with friends.

"They would be walking around the area, practicing with loaded back-packs. People would ask them if they were running away from home," Linda said.

Jane Scher

HUNTINGTON — Jane F. Scher, 82, of Huntington, died Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008, at Visiting Nurse & Hospice in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Scher was a homemaker and worked at Wabash Magnetics for five years. She also worked at Our Sunday Visitor.

She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Huntington and belonged to the Third Order of St. Francis, Widows of Prayer and Rosary Sodality. She was a 1944 graduate of Huntington Catholic High School.

She was born Jan. 21, 1926, in DeKalb County to Alfred and Teresa (Hergenroether) Schortgen.

She married Paul Scher on Oct. 10, 1945, in Huntington. He died April 5, 2000.

Surviving are two daughters, Janice Scher of Huntington and Julia Scher of Avilla; a son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Choleta Scher of Columbia City; three brothers, Robert Schortgen of Columbia City, Herb Schotgen of Albion and Lawrence Schortgen of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Marge Timbrook of Hicksville, Ohio, and Emilie Heeter of Lafayette; and two grandchildren, Michael and Miranda Scher.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Joyce Scher; and two sons, Jon and Jerry Scher.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Huntington, with the Rev. John Guimond officiating. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Huntington.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Bailey-Love Mortuary, with a rosary service at 6 p.m., as well as an hour before the service at the church.

Memorials are to the Huntington Catholic School, care of Bailey-Love Mortuary.

Condolences may be sent to wecare@baileylove.com.

Sharon Munsey

BUTLER— Sharon L. Munsey, 61, of Butler, died Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Munsey

Mrs. Munsey worked as an accounting clerk in the accounts payable department at Eaton Corp. before retiring in 2005. She was a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo and the Rolling Pins Extension Homemakers Club.

She was born Nov. 17, 1946 in Hicksville, Ohio, to Lester G and Violet R. (Brown) Boylan. Her father survives in Auburn.

She married Jerry G. Munsey on May 20, 1967, in Hicksville. He died Nov. 7, 2004.

Also surviving are a son, Jeff Munsey of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Creighton Hobbs of Churubusco; a grandson, Connor Hobbs; a twin sister and brother-in-law, Karen and Mike Sherman of Urbana, Ohio; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Dave and Ruth Boylan and Lester Jr. and Nancy Boylan, all of Fort Wayne, and Rick and Jeannine Boylan of Garrett.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery in Newville.

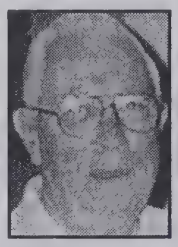
Calling will be Tuesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne, New Hope Christian Center or American Diabetes Association.

Donald Peel

HAMILTON — Donald E. Peel, 82, of Hamilton died Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Peel owned and operated Don's Auto Sales in Hamilton for over 50 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving as a medic during World War II. He graduated from Central High School in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Peel

He was a member of Hamilton Church of Christ and the Hamilton American Legion, a 51-year member of Hamilton Lions Club and a past member of Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department.

He was born June 15, 1926, in Decatur to Sterling and Opal (McClure) Peel.

He married Judith A. (Barnhart) Hardy on Dec. 12, 1959, in the Hamilton United Methodist Church. She died Nov. 7, 2003.

Surviving are a son, Steven Hardy; three daughters and sons-in-law, Ann and John Damron, Amy and Jeff Keegan and Janis and Jeff Alexander, all of Hamilton; 11 grandchildren, Holly Hardy, Josh Hardy, Dereck Hardy, Ashley Keegan, Taylor Keegan, Madelyn Keegan, Nathan Alexander and Kristen Alexander, all of Hamilton, Jessica Chapman and Chad Keegan of Sherwood, Ohio, and Heather Peel of Indianapolis; and seven great-grandchildren, Isaiah Jones, Alivia Jones and Caylie Kaiser of Hamilton and Jaxon Hart, Hallie Hart Keegan Chapman and Isabele Keegan, all of Sherwood, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by two grandchildren Misty Hardy and Sheryl Damron; two sisters, Phyllis Ketchum and Iris Bergdall; and a brother, Billie Joe Peel.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Hamilton New Life Center. Sons-in-law Jeff Alexander and Jeff Keegan will officiate. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, and one hour prior to the service at the New Life Center.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Church of Christ building fund, Hamilton American Legion or Hamilton Lions Club.

Erma Stebing

AUBURN — Erma Jean Stebing, 90, formerly of Garrett, died Sunday evening, Sept. 14, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Stebing worked for the Farm Bureau Co-op in Auburn and for ASCS in Auburn and was a farmer's wife. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, where she sang in the church choir and was a member of the Altar Guild. She volunteered at the Garrett and DeKalb Memorial hospitals.

Mrs. Stebing

She was born Dec. 7, 1917, in Toledo, Ohio, to Frank and Josie (Maggert) Baltz.

She married Roger W. Stebing on Aug. 10, 1941, in Spencerville. He died Jan. 24, 2005.

Surviving are a granddaughter, Joanna R. Stebing of Fort Wayne; a sister-in-law, Helen (Stebing) Bussell of Auburn; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Don and Linda Stebing of Fort Wayne; and four nieces.

She was preceded in death by a son, Thomas Stebing; and a brother, Albert Baltz.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 E. Ninth St., Auburn. The Rev. Stephen K. Kummernuss will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be tonight from 6-8 and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the church.

H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

An online guest book may be signed at hejohnsonfh.com.

Gary Dove

ASHLEY — Gary H. Dove, 63, of Ashley died Monday, Sept. 15, 2008, at 8:35 a.m. at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Mr. Dove was a 1963 graduate of Ashley High School and a former truck driver, retiring due to illness. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a member of the Teamsters Union of Michigan and the Independent Full Gospel Church.

He was born Aug. 12, 1945, in Garrett to James E. and Jessie (Campbell) Dove. His father preceded him in death. His mother survives in Ashley.

He married Teresa Bailey on Dec. 26, 1995. She survives.

Also surviving are the mother of his children, Theresa Dove of New York; his children with her and their spouses, Cheri and Dan Squier of Ashley, Kelly Leckner of New York and Gary Jr. and Rosa Dove of New York; also the mother of his children, Deborah Boyd of Ashley; his children with her, Jessica Dove of Ashley and Julian Dove of Auburn and his wife, Jaclyn; a stepdaughter, Sarah Middleton of Ashley; two stepsons, Noah Parnell of Bloomington and Luke Parnell of Angola; 12 grandchildren, Danny Squier Jr., Steven Squier, Matthew Leckner, Megan Leckner, Nicole Leckner, Ethan Dove, Landon Dove, Julian J. Dove, Gary J. Dove, Clara Dove, Isaiah Kalaau and Dawson Thomas; and six stepgrandchildren, Jeremiah Parnell, Abby Marrow, Lexxie Middleton, Zack Middleton, Trianna Brandenberry and Levi Parnell.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Larry Dove; two sisters, Sally Noll and Carol Coler; a daughter, Tracy Dove; and a stepson, Abe Parnell.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Johnson Funeral Home of Hudson. Pastor Sam Weimer will officiate. Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery at Metz with military graveside services.

Calling will be Thursday after 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

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Wayne Shook

SPENCERVILLE — A memorial service for Wayne L. Shook, 87, will be Saturday at 4 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, with Pastor Gerry Weesner officiating.

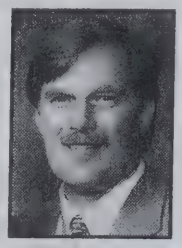
His family will receive friends Saturday after 3 p.m.at the funeral home

Mr. Shook died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008, in Fort Wayne.

Ronald Davis

PERINTON, N.Y. — Ronald D. Davis, 53, died Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, at his residence after battling ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

He grew up in Auburn, Ind., and was a graduate of Purdue University and the University of Rochester Simon School of Business.


Mr. Davis

He worked as a chemical engineer at Eastman Kodak for 29 years until his retirement.

Mr. Davis had many interests, included woodworking, cooking, architecture, antiques, science fiction and ancient civilizations. He loved listening to music, especially jazz, and collecting wines, sharing French wines with family and friends.

He was a member of St. John of Rochester Church, Perinton.

On Jan. 17, 1955, he was born in Garrett to Chester and Donna Davis. They survive in Auburn. He married Dr. Colleen O'Neil. She survives.

Also surviving are three daughters, Kelly, Caitlin and Erin; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Arlene and Thomas Logcoy of Endwell, N.Y.; a brother and his wife, Richard and Patti Davis of Auburn; three brothers-in-law and two spouses, James and Kayt O'Neil of Glastonbury, Conn., Dennis and Shelley O'Neil of Powell, Ohio, and Patrick O'Neil of Cicero, N.Y.; special cousins Patricia, Jack and Caroline Gleichauf; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins; and dear friends Alyn and Vicki Vespucci, Dr. Margy Hobson and Gail Brodner.

A funeral Mass will take place at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. John of Rochester Church, Perinton. Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at Richard H. Keenan Funeral Home, Egypt Location, 7501 Pittsford Palmyra Road, Fairport, N.Y.

Memorials are to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, 333 Westmorland Drive, Rochester, NY 14620.

Robert Foulk

WOLCOTTVILLE — Robert L. "Bob" Foulk, 76, of Wolcottville, died at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, at his residence.

He moved to Wolcottville in 1956 from Garrett. He worked as an auto parts salesman for Golden Auto Parts for 30 years.

He was a U.S. Army Korean War veteran, and a lifetime member of the American Legion Wolcottville post and the Frances Vinyard VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville.

Mr. Foulk

He was a past president and treasurer for 10 years of the Indiana Rural Letter Carriers Auxiliary.

Mr. Foulk enjoyed NASCAR and fishing.

On April 25, 1932, he was born in Garrett to Willis W. and Nellie (Rahmer) Foulk. He married Maire Ross on May 2, 1955, in Angola. She survives in Wolcottville.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Kirk and Brenda Foulk of Wolcottville, and Kevin and Jessica Foulk of Garrett, nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, with the Rev. Carldean Merrifield officiating. Burial will be in Woodland Cemetery, Wolcottville, with graveside services provided by Frances Vinyard VFW Post 2749 and Rome City American Legion Post 381.

Active pallbearers will be Kirk, Kevin, Zachary and Kyle Foulk, Dustin Pease and Travis Schalabach. Honorary pallbearers will be Vern Lundy, Steven and Daniel Fuller, Kenneth Fleming, Henry Snider, Mitchell Neumann, John C. Williams and Steve Roy.

Calling is today from 3 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Louise Houser

NORTH FORT MYERS, Fla. — Louise (Squier) Houser, 92, of North Fort Myers, Fla., died Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008.

Mrs. Houser was a member of the North Fort Myers United Methodist Church and a past member of the DeKalb County Chorus as well as the Purdue University Chorus. She was a past matron of Houghton Lake Order of the Eastern Star, past committeewoman of the State of Michigan Order of the Eastern Star and past Worthy High Priestess of Houghton Lake, of which she was a charter member and a life member. Mrs. Houser also was a past committeewoman of the Supreme White Shrine.

She was born Jan. 12, 1916, in DeKalb County to George W. and Bessie (Beber) Squier.

She married James A. Houser on May 4, 1934, in Jackson, Mich. He died Oct. 30, 2001.

In 1957 the couple moved to Houghton Lake, Mich., where they purchased a resort and Mrs. Houser opened her own beauty shop. In 1972, they made a permanent move to North Fort Myers, Fla.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Larry and Kerin Houser of North Fort Myers, Fla., and James and Barbara Houser of Knoxville, Tenn.; 10 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and one sister, Lois Scogin of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, two sisters, one grandson and one great grandson.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the North Fort Myers United Methodist Church.

Louise Keirn

ALBION — Louise O. Keirn, 93, of Albion died at 10:25 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, at Shepherd of the Hill in Kendallville.

She was a lifetime area resident and retired in 1981 after 29 years of service at Uniform Printing in Kendallville.

Mrs. Keirn was a member of Red Bird Campers Club and Jayco Campers Club.

On May 30, 1915, in Whitley County, she was born to William and Ora (Pence) Walker. She married Dennis Keirn on Nov. 16, 1935. He preceded her in death on June 8, 1981.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Marilyn Keirn of Albion; a daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Ivan Jones of Albion; nine grandchildren; 14 stepgrandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Three brothers, Edward, Willard and Arland Walker, and a sister, Jeannetta Shilling, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel. Burial will be in Blue River Cemetery, Columbia City.

Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel.

Memorials are to the Shepherd of the Hill Kendallville Branch.

Gilbert Starling Sr.

WOLCOTTVILLE — Gilbert A. Starling Sr., 80, of Wolcottville died at 9:34 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange where had resided since May.

He was a long-distance truck driver who had lived in Wolcottville the past five years, coming from Denver, Colo., where he spent most of his adult life.

Mr. Starling was a member of the U.S. Army.

On Aug. 1, 1928 in San Antonio, Texas, he was born to William W. and Katherine Montgomery. He married Cecelia Sleepes on Aug. 3, 1953, in California. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Greg Day of Wolcottville, three sons, Gilbert A. Starling Jr. of Wolcottville, and James L. Starling and Brian R. Starling, both of Denver, Colo.; seven grandchildren; and a sister, Alma Joyce Jennings of Texas.

Preceding him in death were a daughter, Debra Ann Starling in 2003, four brothers and a sister.

There are no services.

Condolences may be sent online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Young Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Bernard Hilger

FORT WAYNE — Bernard E. "Barney" Hilger, 89, died Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, at his home in Fort Wayne.

Born in Fort Wayne, he was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Arcola and Knights of Columbus, a charter member of the Arcola Fire Department and a member of the Lake Township Advisory Board.

Mr. Hilger

A lifelong farmer, he was general manager and co-owner of Gateway Harveststore in Wapakoneta, Ohio, and previously general manager of Tri-State Harveststore in Silver Lake.

Surviving are his wife of 67 years, Gladys M. Hilger of Fort Wayne; his children and their spouses, Carole and John Henschen of Noblesville, Pat and Paul Sorg of Auburn, Steve and Diann Hilger of Noblesville, Don and Connie Hilger of Maple Grove, Minn., Gary and Natalie Hilger of Fort Wayne and Janet and Jon Syfert of Somerset, Mich.; 12 grandchildren; one stepgrandchild; 15 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a brother; and four sisters.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 12305 Arcola Road, Arcola, with Father Cyril Fernandes officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, and Monday from 9 to 10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Patrick Catholic Church, Arcola, or Heartland Home Health Care & Hospice.

Band director was inspiring

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — As a band director for 52 years, Dick Norris taught hundreds of children to play their instruments.

As the director of the Auburn Community Band for more than 20 years, Mr. Norris also helped dozens of adults remember why they played instruments in the first place.

Norris died Sept. 4 at the age of 80.

In 1982, Norris helped a few adults — most of whom hadn't picked up their instruments in years — start a band to play a few concerts around town during the summer. The first night was "terrible," said Dick Shankle, one of the original members of the band. But, under Norris' tutelage, the group began to get better.

"We had so much fun, we decided, 'Why should we give up now?'" Shankle added. Norris agreed to stay on as the band's director and allow the group to practice in the DeKalb Middle School band room.

Twenty-six years later, the band still is together, despite the fact that most community bands last only five to seven years, Shankle said.

Auburn Community Band president Tom Laverghetta said Norris showed a lot of patience with the adults in the community band.

"He was teaching all the time, and he did it with such style," he said. "I think he helped all of us at one time or another."

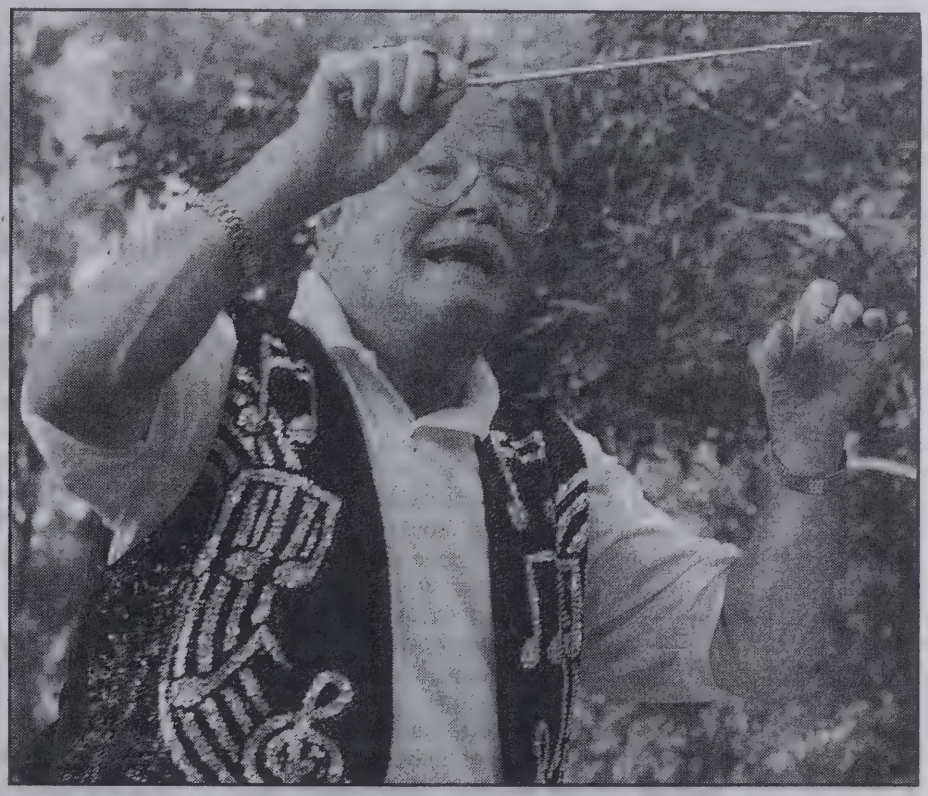
He always encouraged community band members to have fun playing music, Laverghetta added.

Norris retired from directing the community band in 2004, as his health began to deteriorate.

"I think it was really hard for him to quit that community band," Laverghetta said.

But Norris still would show up and play alto saxophone in the band and, on occasion, give new director Kim Randinelli suggestions. When that would happen, Norris' wife, Margery, who played bells in the band, would sometimes walk past him and tap him on the back of his head with one of her little mallets, Laverghetta said with a laugh.

Shankle said Margery was one of the most important people in Norris' life. They would celebrate their anniversary every month with dinner out, and he knew exactly how many months, days and hours the couple had been married.



FILE PHOTO

Richard Norris directs the Auburn Community Band in 2004, his final year with the baton. He died Sept. 4 at the age of 80.

"He was so respectful of her, and he showed you how to treat a lady," Shankle said.

Music was an integral part of Norris' life, even throughout his death and funeral.

Laverghetta learned about Norris' death during a Thursday night community band practice and had to tell the rest of the members the shocking news.

"That's the hardest thing I ever did," Laverghetta said.

The group played John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" — Norris' favorite march — that night in his honor.

"I don't think we've ever played so loud in our lives," Laverghetta said.

"I think he would have wanted us to keep playing," Shankle said.

At his funeral Sept. 8, the community band's Dixieland group sat in the balcony of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. As the casket was being carried out, the band started playing "When the Saints Go Marching In."

"I bet he was in the casket tapping his toe," Laverghetta said.

Appropriately, Norris was buried with a clarinet, his principal instrument.

Even though Norris won't be directing or playing in the band any longer, his memory and legacy will remain, band members say.

"It just was a wonderful experience," Shankle said. "His patience and kindness made the community band click."

"He's one of those guys that comes along once in a lifetime," Laverghetta said. "I had the privilege of knowing him for 26 years. I became an apostle, shall we say, that first night when I saw how he handled that band."

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Randall Williams

ANGOLA — Randall L. "Randy" Williams, 52, of Angola, died Sept. 18, 2008, in Butler.

Mr. Williams was a self-employed auto body repairman. He was a member of the Sons of the Orland American Legion, as well as various car clubs.

Mr. Williams

He was born Nov. 12, 1955, in Fort Wayne to Robert and Phyllis (Mudrack) Williams.

He married Sue Williams in 1996. She survives.

Also surviving are his mother and stepfather, Phyllis and Loren Weinberg of Bronson, Mich.; three sons, Shannon of Butler and Chad and Shawn of LaGrange; two daughters, Sharon of Fremont and Trisha of Angola; three brothers, Robert Williams of Fremont and Rick Williams and Wyn Weinberg, both of Bronson, Mich.; five sisters, Rebecca Dohr of Tampa, Fla., Roxann Hicks of Coldwater, Mich., Rhonda Fuller of Auburn, Cathy Brown of Gainsborough, Tenn., and Susie Jacene of Cooksville, Tenn.; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery in Orland.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Dorothy Sexton

KENDALLVILLE — Dorothy Helen (Bigelow) Sexton, 84, of Kendallville died Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, at 5:50 p.m. at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Sexton

Mrs. Sexton was a nurse and had been on staff at Indianapolis Methodist Hospital, Riley Hospital, Lafayette Home Hospital, and McCray Memorial Hospital. She also worked several years as a private duty nurse in DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Allen counties. She retired in 1983 from active nursing after a career as a registered nurse spanning over 30 years.

She was a 1942 graduate of Kendallville High School and a 1945 graduate of Indianapolis Methodist Hospital School of Nursing.

Mrs. Sexton was a lifetime member of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville.

She was born June 23, 1924, in Kendallville to Donald and Gertrude (Barnhart) Bigelow. She married Warren R. Sexton Jr. on Sept. 27, 1946. He preceded her in death on Oct. 8, 1993.

Surviving are four children, Julie and Jack Ramage of Somerville, Texas, and Carol and John Blume, Beth and Douglas Rohlfing, and Randolph "Randy" and Debra Sexton, all of Kendallville; six grandchildren, Heather Rohlfing, Gretchen Ahmed, Travis Blume, Jason Blume, Matthew Sexton and Jennifer Sexton; and one greatgrandchild, Mackenzie Blume.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Church United Methodist with the Rev. Steve Brittenham officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville. Honorary pallbearers will be Jim McClure, Jim Britten, Sherman Strawser and David Baker. Active pallbearers will be Jason Blume, Travis Blume, Matthew Sexton, Jim Dazey, Dave Wilson and Barry Graden.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Tuesday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St. Kendallville, and one hour prior to services Wednesday at the church.

Condolences may be sent online to youngfamilyfuneralhome.com. View a video tribute after Tuesday.

Ruth Collins

ST. JOE — Ruth E. Collins, 85, died Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Collins worked as a secretary for Sechler Pickles in St. Joe for 23 years and was a homemaker. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

Mrs. Collins

She was born March 30, 1923, in St. Joe.

She married Dale D. Collins on Feb. 7, 1942, in Hattiesburg, Miss. He died July 7, 1986.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Cheryll and John Thomas Hollabaugh and Mary Lu and Rex Snyder, all of St. Joe; five grandchildren, Jennie Stauffer of St. Joe, Julie Rotz of St. Joe, Joe Hollabaugh of Gilbert, Minn., Troy Snyder of Waterloo and Nikki Garrison of St. Joe; 10 great-grandchildren; and a sister, G. Dawn Suter of Nappanee.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Myra Southard; and a brother, Walter Keesler Jr.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Joe with Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 345, St. Joe, IN 46785.

Alice Cook

KENDALLVILLE — Alice I. Cook, 65, of Kendallville and formerly of Howe died Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, at 2:30 a.m. at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mrs. Cook was a homemaker.

She was a 1961 graduate of Ogden High School in Ogden, Ill.

Mrs. Cook had been a member of the Eagles Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star, both in LaGrange.

She was also a member of Lima Presbyterian Church in Howe.

She was born May 22, 1943, in Ashley to George and Arlene (Phillips) Wisel. She married David Cook on Nov. 12, 1965. He died in 1994. She then married Harry Whetzel in 2004 at Pleasant Lake and he died in 2005.

Surviving are four sons, Ernest Cook of Fort Wayne, Steven Cook of Howe, Shawn Cook of Ligonier and Edward Wisel of Avilla; two brothers, G. Ned Wisel of Garrett and George Wisel of Carmel; a sister and brother-in-law, Georgetta and William Berry of Spencerville; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange. Her cremains will be interred at Riverside Cemetery at a later date.

Calling will be two hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the LaGrange County Cancer Society or to Shepherd of the Hill.

Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

Lynette Barton

ALBION — Lynette L. "Nettie" Barton, 70, of Albion died at 2:47 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Barton was a seamstress.

She had moved to the area in 1976 from the Albany area.

Mrs. Barton enjoyed mending, word search puzzles, doing jigsaw puzzles and spending time with her family, friends and pets.

She was born Aug. 8, 1938, in Jay County to Robert L. and Florence M. (Starr) Bond. She married Jack Barton in December 1961 in the Albany United Methodist Church. He died Sept. 20, 2004.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Linda and John Vickers of Auburn and Tina Frankenberg of Fairborne, Ohio; four grandchildren, Gary, Rikki, Rob and Christina; three grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Rhonda Sisco of Florida; a brother and sister-in-law, Lanny and Linda Bond of Albany; and her adopted family, Larry and Kathie Huff, Kyle and Taylor Orr, and Amanda, Alyssa and Helen Stangland.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Kenny Sisco, in February.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, with the Rev. James Archambeault officiating.

Calling will be from 2-3 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society or the Albion Presbyterian Church where she helped with garage sales.

Robert Iannetti

FORT WAYNE — Robert L. "Bob" Iannetti, 62, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday Sept. 23, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Iannetti had been a truck driver since 1980 and most recently worked for Don Burkhart Trucking for four years. He was a veteran of the U.S Navy and a member of the New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo.

He was born Oct. 10, 1945, in Osterburg, Pa., to Ernest D. and Evelyn M. (Stambaugh) Iannetti.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Anthony J. "Tony" and Jill Iannetti of Leo; a daughter and son-in-law, Tina and Luke Cape of Edgerton, Ohio; five grandchildren, Brittany Iannetti, Adam Iannetti, Tommy Iannetti, Devin Cape and Ally Cape; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Evelyn and Lester Reuse of Cleveland, Ohio, Cathy Woods of Orlando, Fla., and Dorothy and Don Mobley of Marietta, Ga.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to New Hope Christian Center of Waterloo.

Sarah Yoder

GARRETT — Sarah E. "Sally" Yoder, 87, of Angola and formerly of Garrett died Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008, at 5:21 p.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Yoder

Mrs. Yoder was a homemaker and a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church, Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority and the American Legion Auxiliary.

She was born Oct. 18, 1920, in Coral, Mich.

On Jan. 22, 1948, in Goshen, she married Ernest "Ernie" Yoder. He died Dec. 31, 1993.

She and her husband moved to Garrett in June 1956 and established the Yoder Ford dealership. They lived in Garrett until 1988, when they moved to Lake Gage in Angola, where she resided for the past 20 years.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, William and Ethel Yoder of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Kay and Doug Weeks of Marlborough, Conn.; three grandchildren, Erica and Paul Jamison of Huntertown, Dr. Jeff Yoder of Chicago and Brad Weeks of Marlborough,Conn.; two great-grandsons, William and Andrew Jamison of Huntertown.

She was preceded in death by five brothers.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. William Haworth officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association or Muscular Dystrophy Association.

To leave a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Georgia Elam

FORT WAYNE — Georgia M. Elam, 91, died Friday, Sept. 26, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Elam resided at University Park Nursing Center where she was alert and quite active until the last six months. She had many friends through her church and was a longtime member of the Alanon Family Group.

She was born Oct. 25, 1916, in Garrett.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, John; a son, Eric; and her sister, Jean Oniell of New York, who died in 2007.

Services will be Sunday at 3 p.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church, 8405 Lima Road, Fort Wayne, with calling from 2-3 p.m. Pastor Dennis Leinbach will officiate.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home in Fort Wayne is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to Bethel United Methodist Church.

Louise Spears

KENDALLVILLE — Louise Ellen Spears, 73, of Kendallville, and formerly of Oceanside, Calif., died Friday, Sept. 26, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Spears was a homemaker.

She was born Sept. 30, 1935, in Rich Hill, Mo., to Ezra and Mary (Doty) Tait.

Her husband, Donald Edward Spears, preceded her in death.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Tom Estill of San Diego, Calif.; a son, Don Spears of Arizona; 13 grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two daughters, Katherine Dowden and Vickie Spears.

There will be no calling or services.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
September 28 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Federspiel's heart was in Clear Lake

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

CLEAR LAKE — As a boy, Paul Federspiel fell in love with Clear Lake. For much of his adult life, and especially the last few years, Federspiel worked to protect the place he loved.

Federspiel, 61, died Sept. 20 at his Clear Lake home.

Federspiel's father, Robert Federspiel, said he would bring his family up to the lake regularly from Fort Wayne to the family cottage.

"All of his life he spent summers here," Robert said.

Federspiel's wife, Kathy Latz, said when Federspiel retired from his job as a vice president and commercial loan officer at Fort Wayne National Bank, he immediately said he wanted to move up to Clear Lake as soon as possible.

"He told me we were moving in two days," Latz said. "He didn't give me a whole lot of notice."

Latz said Federspiel's love for the area was obvious.

"One of our first dates early on, he brought me up here. It was winter, there weren't a lot of people up here. He just loved Clear Lake. It was in his heart and it was in his blood."

Federspiel was involved with a number of boards and charities in Fort Wayne, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fort Wayne, Easter Seals ARC, and other organizations, Latz said.

"He was always community minded. A lot of organizations needed a smart fiscally responsible person."

Robert Federspiel said his son got much of his love for the water, and the land that surrounded from his grandfather, Frank Federspiel Jr., who lived on the lake year-round and served the community in a number of different capacities.

Much of his time since coming to Clear Lake on a permanent basis was spent working with the Clear Lake Conservancy, which he served as president.

Latz had served on the conservancy herself for two terms before Federspiel became involved. The two had an agreement that they did not want to serve at the same time, she said.

In addition, he was a member of the town plan commission, town council and Clear Lake Lions Club.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Paul Federspiel worked tirelessly to preserve the beauty of his beloved Clear Lake. Federspiel, along with his wife, Kathy Latz, worked on conservation efforts for many years, as well as serving on town boards and working in other charitable activities.

"He had a vision for what he wanted Clear Lake to be ," Latz said. "We would go to every BZA meeting, even when he wasn't serving on the board. He was the person who made it happen that this land would be protected."

Federspiel didn't even stop working when he became ill, Latz said.

"Going through treatment in Chicago, he was still working on easements," Latz said. At one point a doctor came in his room to speak with him, Latz said, only for Federspiel to say that the doctor would have to wait. When the doctor asked why, Latz said Federspiel replied, "Because I'm purchasing an island (Kasota Island) for $1.2 million. He really dedicated his life to giving back. Knowing he was ill, he really hoped others would take off and run with the effort."

Bill Geiger of Clear Lake worked closely with Federspiel in the conservancy and the efforts to purchase Kasota Island.

"He was very committed to the conservancy," Geiger said. "He was very instrumental in the purchase of the island and developing and maintaining the endowment at the Steuben County Community Foundation."

Geiger said that while he'd only known Federspiel well the last few years, he saw him as someone who gave of himself.

"He was a very giving person for the community and respected everybody's opinion."

Bob Lewis of Clear Lake said he had also developed a good relationship with Federspiel in his years working on conservation efforts.

"When I decided to run for town council, Paul was the first person I asked to run with me," Lewis said. "He's been a great Clear Lake person who devoted much of his life to Clear Lake."

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September 28 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Paul Hathaway

AUBURN — Paul V. Hathaway Jr., 75, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 26, 2008, at his home in rural Auburn.

Mr. Hathaway worked for International Harvester in Fort Wayne and retired after more than 30 years of service. He then went to work for seven years at International Wire in Corunna.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, serving from 1955 - 1959. He was a member of the Garrett American Legion and the Loyal Order of the Moose, Auburn. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, playing cards but his true passion was his children and grandchildren. He was especially known for his joke telling.

He was born on Oct. 27, 1932, in DeKalb County, to Paul V. Hathaway Sr. and Audrey (Derrup) Hathaway.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Timothy Hathaway of Bristol and Scott and Nancy Hathaway of Kendallville; two daughters and one son-in-law, Tracey and Rod Kittleman of Springfield, Mo., and Susan Craig of Seattle, Wash.; one brother and sister-in-law, Robert "Bob" and Freda Hathaway of Auburn; one sister, Bess Miller of Auburn; and six grandchildren, Alissa Hathaway, Kimmy Hathaway, Shannon Kittleman, Nathan Hathaway, Katy Hathaway, and Nefy Hathaway.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, rural Garrett. Military graveside services will be conducted by the Garrett American Legion.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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I-69 crash kills motorcyclist

Kendallville man tried to pass between vehicles

WATERLOO — A Kendallville man died when his motorcycle sideswiped a car he was passing on I-69 Sunday night, DeKalb County Police reported.

Bernard T. Leonelli, 49, of the 600 block of Granada Drive, was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, according to a police news release.

A Samaritan Air Ambulance flew Leonelli to the hospital after he crashed at 7:25 p.m. on I-69 near the 136 mile-marker, two miles north of U.S. 6.

A police report said Leonelli was riding a 2002 Harlev-Davidson motorcycle southbound on the interstate highway. He tried to pass two vehicles that were traveling side-by-side, using the centerline as a lane, according to Deputy Adam D. Friedel, who investigated.

While he was attempting to pass, Leonelli's motorcycle sideswiped a 2001 Chevrolet Blazer on his right, driven by Mary M. Schweyer, 45, of Fort Wayne.

The motorcycle traveled across the passing lane and into the grass median, where it overturned, ejecting Leonelli. The motorcycle rolled onto the berm of the northbound passing lane, and Leonelli landed in the median.

DeKalb County Police investigated with assistance from DeKalb EMS, the Waterloo Fire Department, Waterloo Marshal's Office, Indiana State Police and Samaritan Air Ambulance.

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY is *being reprinted with additional information provided by the funeral home.*

Paul Hathaway

AUBURN — Paul V. Hathaway Jr., 75, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 26, 2008, at his home in rural Auburn.

Mr. Hathaway worked for International Harvester in Fort Wayne and retired after more than 30 years of service. He then went to work for seven years at International Wire in Corunna.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, serving from 1951-1955. He played football, basketball, and baseball for the Air Force.

He was a member of the Garrett American Legion and the Loyal Order of the Moose, Auburn. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, playing cards, but his true passion was his children and grandchildren. He was especially known for his joke telling and videotaping.

He was born on Oct. 27, 1932, in DeKalb County, to Paul V. Hathaway Sr. and Audrey (Drerup) Hathaway.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Timothy Hathaway of Bristol and Scott and Nancy Hathaway of Kendallville; two daughters and one son-in-law, Tracey and Rod Kittleman of Springfield, Mo., and Susan Craig of Seattle, Wash.; one brother and sister-in-law, Robert "Bob" and Freda Hathaway of Auburn; one sister, Bess Miller of Auburn; six grandchildren, Alissa Hathaway, Kimmy Hathaway, Shannon Kittleman, Nathan Hathaway, Katy Hathaway, and Nefy Hathaway; and one great-grandchild, Rylan Lewis Hathaway.

Services were at 11 a.m. today at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial was in Christian Union Cemetery, rural Garrett. Military graveside services were conducted by the Garrett American Legion.

Memorials are to the Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Joyce Gillespie

PAOLA, Kan. — Joyce L. Gillespie, 93, a native of Corunna, died Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, in Paola, Kan.

A memorial service will be Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Evergreen Events in Paola. Burial will be in the Corunna Cemetery.

Memorials are to Gideons International.

Forrest Brattain

PALATINE, Ill. — Forrest Brattain, 93, of Palatine, Ill., and formerly of Spencerville, died Tuesday, Sept, 30, 2008. There will be no services or calling.

THE EVENING STAR
October 3 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Robert Custer

GARRETT — Robert "Gene" Custer, 79, of Garrett died at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Garrett United Methodist Church.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church, Garrett Historical Society and the Garrett Alumni Association.

Lois Scrafton

MARION — Lois Juanita Scrafton, 92, Marion, died at 6 a.m. Thursday, October 2, 2008, in Rolling Meadows Health Care Center, LaFontaine, IN.

She was born in Wallahalla, S.C., to Lavern and Annie (Smith) Vaughn. She married Joseph Scrafton on November 21, 1942. He survives in Marion.

She was an excellent homemaker, a loving mother and a faithful prayer warrior. Church was very important to Lois and she was a member of Converse Church of Christ. For many years she was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School.

Memorials may be directed to the Girls in Faith Training (GIFT) of Converse Church of Christ. Online condolences may be made at www.nswcares.com.

Visitation will be Sunday, October 5, 2008, from 2-6 p.m. at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Avenue, Marion, IN.

Funeral Service will be at 10 AM, Monday, October 6, 2008 at the funeral home.

Officiant will be Rev. Rob Schwarze.

Burial in Converse Cemetery, Converse, IN.

Surviving with her husband are daughters and sons-in-law, JoAnn (Richard) Helfrich of Auburn, IN., and Jody (Ronald) Newhouse of Greentown, IN.; sons and daughters-in-law, Joel (Teresa) Scrafton of Syracuse, IN., and Mark (Michelle) Scrafton of Warsaw, IN.; nine grandchildren, Craig Helfrich (fiancee Jill Bause) of Auburn, IN., Kevin Helfrich of Marion, IN., Bradley (Shanann) Newhouse of Converse, IN., Brent (Tonya) Newhouse of Converse, IN., Bethany (Micha) Young of Warsaw, IN., Jared (Kendra) Scrafton of Silver Lake, IN., Nicole Wills of Warsaw, IN., Noelle Scrafton of Warsaw, IN., and Tanner Scrafton of Warsaw; and five great-grandsons; three great-granddaughters; and a sister, Lucy Slattery of DeLand, FL.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lavern and Annie Mae Vaughn; a son, Kenneth G. Scrafton; a brother, Bill Vaughn; and a sister, Vera Saunders.

Eva Donley

ALBION — Eva M. Donley, 87, of Albion died Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008, at 2:35 p.m. at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler. She had been in failing health since April.

Mrs. Donley was a homemaker.

She enjoyed flowers, raising melons, working in her garden and crocheting.

She was born Oct. 5, 1920, in Green Township, Noble County, to Carl and Bess (Fisher) Hoffman. On March 5, 1937, in Albion she married Kenneth Donley. He preceded her in death in March 1977.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Rosemary and Max E. Hill of Albion; a son and daughter-in-law, Carl and Charlene Donley of Fort Wayne; a sister, Garnet Stephens of Hartford City; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Larry Donley; a grandson, Randy J. Hill; four sisters, and two brothers.

Funeral services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. G. Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery

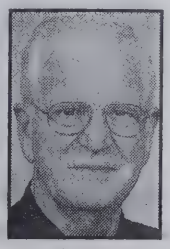
Calling will be one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Condolences may be sent to the family at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Robert Custer

GARRETT — Robert "Gene" Custer, 79, of Garrett died at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Custer was a farmer and had worked in machine repair at Garrett Flexible and Electric Motors. He retired from Dana Corp. in Fort Wayne in 1995 after 23 years of service.


Mr. Custer

He was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, Garrett American Legion, Garrett Historical Society, and the Garrett Alumni Association.

Mr. Custer was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

He was born Aug. 25, 1929, in Garrett to Alexander J. and Sadie E. (Grube) Custer. He married Katrina H. Heinzerling on May 29, 1951, in Auburn. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Chad Custer of Garrett and Carl and Donna Custer of Garrett; five daughters and sons-in-laws, Cathy and Ellsworth Saxer of Garrett, Cindy and Roger Shirley of Marietta, Ohio, Carrie Custer and her companion, Ted Kirschner, of Wolcottville, Clara Custer of Garrett and Celia and Dennis Omspacher of Garrett; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Harold and Anne Custer and Wayne and Martha Custer, all of Garrett; three sisters in-law, Betty Custer and Lori Custer, both of Garrett, and Ruth Ross of Timmonium, Md.; 15 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Finley Custer and Dale Custer.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Garrett United Methodist Church with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church, Garrett Historical Society or Garrett Alumni Association.

Send condolences or sign the on-line register book at thomasfuneral-home.org.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 6 2008

James Combs

GARRETT — James Combs, 59, of Garrett died Friday, Oct. 3, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

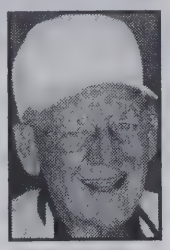
Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Dallas Terry

SOUTH MILFORD — Dallas Ray Terry, 72, of South Milford died Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008, at his home with his family by his side.

Mr. Terry was employed with Foley Pattern in Auburn and also worked at Lane Foundry in Kendallville. For the past four years, he did yard work at Tri-State Hardwood north of South Milford. In his earlier years, he worked as a farm hand and helped milk cows for Perkins Farms in Stroh.


Mr. Terry

He was a member of the Helmer Independent Baptist Church.

Mr. Terry was born in Hazard, Ky., on Oct. 16, 1935, to Silas and Bertha (Terry) Terry. He married Sylvia Ritchie on March 3, 1956, in Hindman, Ky. She survives in South Milford.

Also surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Debra and Doug Borden of Avilla, Diane and Glen Nagel of South Milford and Theresa and Don Harper of McClish Lake, Hudson; a son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Lisa Terry of Stroh; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Gladys Anthony, Ogie Perkins and Dolly Combs; and three brothers, Gomer, Willis and Wallace Terry.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home with Pastor Rick Davis and the Rev. Lee Combs officiating. Burial will be at Lake Bethel Cemetery in LaGrange County. Pallbearers will be Glen Nagel, Doug Borden, Don Harper, Brad Borden, Tyler Terry and Michael Harper.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home with Pastor Rick Davis and the Rev. Lee Combs officiating. Burial will be at Lake Bethel Cemetery in LaGrange County. Pallbearers will be Glen Nagel, Doug Borden, Don Harper, Brad Borden, Tyler Terry and Michael Harper.

Memorials are to Helmer Independent Baptist Church, Stroh Fire Department or Parkview Noble Home Health and Hospice.

View a video tribute by or send condolences to the family at hitefuneralhome.com.

Archie Allen

AUBURN — Archie A. Allen, 88, of Auburn died Monday, Oct. 6, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Allen worked in the maintenance department for the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County from 1959 until retiring in 1983.

He was a private in the U.S. Army serving during World War II.

He was a member of the Auburn Church of Christ and the Angola American Legion Post 31.

He was born on Aug. 30, 1920, in Pleasant Lake to F. Wayne and Edna B. (Graves) Allen. He married Lila L. Erwin on March 13, 1943, in San Antonio, Texas. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Steven D. and Molly Allen of Auburn; a daughter, Sandra L. "Sandy" Allen of Cincinnati, Ohio; three grandchildren, Amanda and Tom Peet, Tyler Allen and Carli Allen; one sister, Patricia Little of Tucson, Ariz.; three brothers and one sister-in-law, Herman "Wayne" Allen of Fort Wayne, Robert and Donna Lu Allen of Pleasant Lake, and William Allen of Tucson, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Viola Schiffli.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with John Scott officiating. Burial will be in Lake Gage Cemetery, rural Angola, with military graveside services conducted by Angola American Legion Post 31.

Calling will be Wednesday from 12–2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the American Diabetes Association or the Auburn Church of Christ.

James Combs

GARRETT — James Combs, 59, of Garrett died Friday, Oct. 3, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Combs worked as a carpenter for Fleetwood Homes of Garrett for seven years.

He was born June 16, 1949, in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his mother, Effie Mae Combs of Garrett; a daughter, Tina Combs-Stuckey of Leo; three sons, Michael Combs and Anthony Combs, both of Garrett, and Jason Combs of Butler; three sisters, Louise Mullins of Avilla, Susie Richardson of Waynedale and Kathy Fugate of Garrett; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Miles Combs; two sisters and a brother.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Erlene Graham

FREMONT — Erlene C. Graham, 71, of Fremont died Friday, Oct. 3, 2008, at her residence.

There will be no services or calling.

Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to Locks of Love, 234 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, Fla., 33405.

Madeline Sheean

FORT WAYNE — Madeline K. Gordon Sheean, 95, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008, at Hospice Home.

Mrs. Sheean had been a homemaker.

She was born Aug. 7, 1913, in Columbia City to Frank and Bessie (Garrison) Wynkoop.

Mrs. Sheean

Surviving are two daughters, Virginia Hill and Barbara Clemens, both of Fort Wayne; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Richard E. and Eva Gordon of Fort Wayne, Tom N. and Barbara Gordon of Auburn and Don G. Gordon of Fort Wayne; a brother, Franklin Wynkoop of Zephyrhills, Fla.; a sister, Scharee Schwalm of Fort Wayne; 14 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands, Thomas Sheean in 1985 and James Gordon in 1968; a son, James E. Gordon in 1995; five sisters; a brother; and a son-in-law, Charles L. Hill.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Home for Funerals, 6810 Old Trail Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be two hours prior to services.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Garland Myers

LAGRANGE — Garland L. Myers, 97, of Fort Wayne and formerly of LaGrange died Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008, at his residence.

In 1976, Mr. Myers moved to the LaGrange area where he lived until he returned to Fort Wayne in 2005.

Mr. Myers

He was a machinist at General Electric in Fort Wayne for 47 years and a member of the GE Quarter Century Club.

Mr. Myers was also a member of the Stroh Church of Christ and the Fort Wayne Moose Lodge No. 200.

He was born on March 11, 1911, in Fort Wayne to the late Chester and Lydia (Dintelsbeck) Myers. On Oct. 5, 1933, in Auburn, he married DeNeil I. Ross. She died Dec. 27, 2002.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Patsy and Jack Funk of Wolcottville and Gay Verlyn Bell of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Also preceding him in death were his parents; a great-grandchild; three sisters and five brothers.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the Stroh Church of Christ.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at the church with the Rev. Michael Hamm officiating. Burial will be in Lake Bethel Cemetery in LaGrange.

Memorials are to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home or Stroh Church of Christ.

Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Robertt Keyes

AUBURN — Robertt C. Keyes, M.D., 83, died Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008, at Wesley Health Care Center, Auburn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, with burial in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be one hour prior to services and from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to the Riley Children Foundation, 30 S. Meridian St., Suite 200, Indianapolis IN 46204.

Gertie Abbott

AUBURN — Gertie L. Abbott, 96, died Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008, at her home in rural Auburn.

Mrs. Abbott owned and operated the Abbott Beauty Shoppe out of her home south of Auburn since 1940.

She was a member of the Alter Star Methodist Church, Auburn Ladies of the Moose, Garrett Elks Lodge and Garrett Eagles.

She was born Dec. 12, 1912, in Wabash County to Pressie and Sarah (Bumgardner) Drudge.

She married Hubert Abbott on May 26, 1934, and he died Feb. 2, 1962.

She is survived by three grandchildren, Richard Abbott, Sunday Abbott and Jeffrey Abbott; and three great-grandchildren, Zachery Abbott, Colin Abbott and Owen Abbott.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Richard Abbott on March 8, 1998; two brothers; and three sisters.

Services will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery near Garrett.

Calling will be from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. Saturday prior to the service.

Memorials are to DeKalb County Heart Association or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 12 2008

Fremont woman used food to show her love

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Audrey Hutchins valued her family more than anything.

"Her family was her life," daughter Diana Meek said. "Everything revolved around her family."

Hutchins, of Fremont, died Oct. 4, at Lakeland Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola. Her daughters said many of the memories they had of their mother came with food involved.

"She liked to have cookouts and picnics," Meek said. "We would go on picnics a lot."

When the family lived on Tolford Street in Fremont, they were part of a small block of family houses, with the Hutchins' near both her husband's sister, Gladys Sidel, and mother, Liela Hutchins. Daughter Susan Bidelman said the entire family living in the neighborhood would get together often.

"She would always cook for Aunt Gladys, because she was older," Bidelman said. "Mom kept an eye on everyone. She was always making her buttermilk sugar cookies."

Meek said that when her brother, Roger, used to work near the house, her mother would take lunches over all of the time.

Hutchins was active for 30 years in the American Legion Cassel Post No. 257 Auxiliary. Even in her later years, as she got less involved Legion activities, Meek said, Hutchins would still put together dishes for dinners at a moment's notice.

Hutchins worked for 20 years in the cafeteria for Fremont schools. Superintendent Ben Roederer, who was serving as elementary school principal during Hutchins' last six or seven years at the school, said she always treated the children of the school like her own family.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Audrey Hutchins and her husband William lived in Fremont for over 60 years. Hutchins' daughters said their mother valued her family and community above all else in her life.

"She seemed to take everyone of these children, including the older children, as her own,"

Roederer said. "She would go out of her way to treat them like they were special."

Often, Roederer said, Hutchins would be the one responsible for the baked goods that students enjoyed with lunch.

"It was like a homemade lunch when you were there a lot of the time," Roederer said.

Meek and Bidelman said their parents were the type that were just always there for them. "You just always knew they were there," Bidelman said. "Her family was really important. We used to all go and visit her mother and her sister in Coldwater (Mich.). They just always were there if we needed it."

Hutchins met her husband, William, who still lives in Fremont, during World War II.

"She met Dad at the pants factory in Coldwater during the war," Meek said.

They married in 1943. They lived briefly in Washington, D.C., after William was in the military police, just after Diana was born.

Meek said her parents would often take trips to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Meek said her mother was more the type to enjoy fishing and the scenery.

"Her and Dad loved to go up to the U.P. They would just rent a cabin and drive around, or they'd go to the Sault Ste. Marie locks. Mom used to go and just watch the leaves change."

Hutchins' daughters also remembered their mother as a woman who really loved her community.

"They lived here in Fremont probably 60 years," Meek said.

Other than the brief stay in Washington, D.C., when William was stationed there in the service, and a brief period living in Kinderhook, Mich., they lived in Fremont for 60 years, Meek said. Fremont was home.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 12 2008

Robert Hamel

AUBURN — Robert "Gene" E. Hamel, 65, of Auburn, died Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was a self-employed master electrician, a former employee at Borg Warner Gear in Auburn, and a 1961 graduate of Avilla High School in Avilla.

Mr. Hamel was a veteran serving in the National Guard, and a member of the Auburn Elks, Auburn Moose Lodge, American Legion Post 97 of Auburn, Tall Cedars Northwest Forrest of Ohio, DeKalb Lodge 214 F&AM, Mizpah Shrine, No. 305 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Hot Rod Association.

During the 1970s and early 1980s his passion was drag racing. He raced at many different drag strips in the Midwest.

He was born on July 29,1943, in California to Gertrude (Yarian) Hamel.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Patsy and John Dalrymple, Huntington, Anita and John Gingrich, Fort Wayne, and Cheryl and John Wyatt, Auburn; a sister, Judy Nordenbrook, St. Lucie Shores, Fla.; and five grandchildren, Alyssa and Megan Dalrymple, Hali and Quinlan Guingrich, and Kali West.

His mother preceded him in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, rural Garrett.

Calling will be from 2 to 6 p.m. today at the funeral home. Memorials are to the Shriners Hospital.

THE EVENING STAR
October 13 2008 Auburn, Indiana

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY *is being reprinted to correct errors.*

Robert Hamel

AUBURN — Robert "Gene" E. Hamel, 65, of Auburn, died Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was a self-employed master electrician, a former employee at Borg Warner Gear in Auburn, and a 1961 graduate of Avilla High School in Avilla.

Mr. Hamel was a veteran serving in the National Guard, and a member of the Auburn Elks, Auburn Moose Lodge, American Legion Post 97 of Auburn, Tall Cedars Northwest Forrest of Ohio, DeKalb Lodge 214 F&AM, Mizpah Shrine, No. 305 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Hot Rod Association.

During the 1970s and early 1980s his passion was drag racing. He raced at many different drag strips in the Midwest.

He was born on July 29,1943, in California to Gertrude (Yarian) Hamel.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Patsy and John Dalrymple, Huntington, Anita and John Gingrich, Fort Wayne, and Cheryl and Scott Wyatt, Auburn; a sister, Judy Nordenbrook, St. Lucie Shores, Fla.; and five grandchildren, Alyssa and Megan Dalrymple, Hali and Quinlan Guingrich, and Kali Wyatt.

His mother preceded him in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, rural Garrett.

Calling was from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Shriners Hospital.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 15 2008

Ron Hege

AUBURN — Ron Hege, 65, of Auburn died Monday, Oct. 13, 2008.

Mr. Hege had served as the Youth For Christ executive director for 40 years.

Mr. Hege

Surviving are his wife, Janet, of Auburn, and a daughter and son-in-law, Abby and JP Doozan of Kingsland, Ga.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Grace Hege Frane; his father, Ralph Hege; his stepfather, Virgil Frane; a sister, Martha Denis; and a brother, Richard Crain.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Youth For Christ Center, 1600 S. Grandstaff, Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-9 p.m. Friday and one hour prior to services Saturday at the Youth For Christ Center.

Memorials are to YFC of Northeast Indiana.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 16 2008

William Craig

AUBURN — William Milton Craig, 93, of Auburn and formerly of Mount Summit passed away Monday, Oct. 13, 2008, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

He was born March 5, 1915, in Ottawa, Canada, to the late Samuel and Mary (Stearns) Craig.

He was a retired minister in 1980 and did a lot of interim work after retirement. He had lived in Mount Summit since 1973 and had moved to Auburn in the last five years. He was a member of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Auburn and had pastored the Mount Summit Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for seven years. He was a member of the 32nd Degree Mason Scottish Rite. He was past president of the Disciples of Amateur Radio Fellowship and was also an accomplished artist.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Margaret A. Craig; a son, Dr. Robert (wife: Darlene) Craig of Auburn; a daughter, Ruth (husband: Richard) Kendal of Ossian; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Everett Craig.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two daughters, Mary Jane Pifer and Donna Craig; a grandson, Carl Pifer; a sister, Muriel Clayton; and two brothers, Lorne and Leonard Craig.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Mount Summit Christian Church in Mount Summit with Rev. Mark O'Brien officiating. Burial will follow in Mount Summit Cemetery.

Friends may call from 3-7 p.m. today at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service in New Castle.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Mount Summit Christian Church or the First Christian Church of Auburn, P.O. Box 89, Auburn, IN 46706. Online condolences may be made at www.hinsey-brown.com.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 17 2008

Ethel Hall

GARRETT — Ethel Irene Hall, 62, died Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008, at her home in Las Vegas, Nev.

Ms. Hall was born on Dec. 3, 1945, in Letcher County, Ky., to William Riley and Sarah Elizabeth Hall Day.

She was a longtime resident of Garrett before moving to Las Vegas.

Surviving are her two sons, John Hall of Garrett and James Hall of Las Vegas; three grandchildren, Ava and Logan Hall and Matthew Cordes, all of Garrett; two sisters, Ruby Howard of Fort Wayne and Evadean Webb of Whitesburg, Ky.; and two brothers, Bobby Day of Danville, Ky., and John Day of Whitesburg, Ky.

Preceding her in death were a brother, Billy Day, and a sister, Helen Maggard.

A memorial service will be held Oct. 25, 2008, at the Garrett American Legion from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m.

Jeanette Herczeg

MISHAWAKA — Jeanette Anne Herczeg, 87, of Mishawaka died Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, at Elkhart General Hospital.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 4508 Vistula Road, Mishawaka. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery at Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Chapel Hill Funeral Home, 10776 McKinley Highway, Osceola.

Memorials are to Queen of Peace Catholic Church or to Hannah's House, 518 W. 4th St., Mishawaka, IN 46544.

THE EVENING STAR 2008 Auburn, Indiana
October 18

Jeanette Herczeg

MISHAWAKA — Jeanette Anne Herczeg, 87, of Mishawaka passed away peacefully at 3:35 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, in Elkhart General Hospital.

Mrs. Herczeg

She was a 1939 graduate of Strycker High School.

Mrs. Herczeg had worked at Ball Band, the Elkhart County Welfare Department and St. Joseph Valley Bank of Elkhart.

She was a Camp Fire leader for 12 years, election poll volunteer, Diocesan Catholic Council of Women member, and active with the Marian High School Mother's Club.

Mrs. Herczeg was a member of Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Mishawaka, where she was an usher and proclaimer. She was a member of the Rosary Societies of Queen of Peace, Mishawaka, St. Dominick's, Bremen and St. Agnes, Phoenix, Ariz.

She was born on June 15, 1921, to William B. and Laurett (Shortgen) Carpenter. On May 4, 1940, she married Frank Herczeg. He died in August of 1990.

Surviving are two children, Frederick and (Claire Forbes) Herczeg of Agoura Hills, Calif., and Phyllis and (Art Konecny) Herczeg of Elkhart; four grandchildren, Jessica, Elizabeth, Erica and Alicia; a sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Jon McDaniel of Auburn; and a brother, Lee Carpenter of Hicksville, Ohio.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, William Jr., and Richard; and one sister, Elaine Bonner.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 4508 Vistula Road, Mishawaka. Burial will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery at Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday in Chapel Hill Funeral Home, 10776 McKinley Highway, Osceola, with a rosary at 5:30 p.m. Additional calling will be one hour prior to services Monday at the church.

Memorials are to Queen of Peace Catholic Church or to Hannah's House, 518 W. 4th St., Mishawaka, IN 46544

Condolences may be sent to www.chapelhillmemorial.com.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 18 2008

LaVon Jansen

KENDALLVILLE — LaVon Virgilia Jansen, 83, of Kendallville died on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Jansen

Mrs. Jansen was a dedicated member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville where she was active with the Rosary Sodality and as a Eucharistic minister.

She was a member of the American Red Cross and an important part of the Kendallville Bloodmobile program, serving as chairwomen since 1979.

Mrs. Jansen was named the City of Kendallville "Citizen of the Year" in 2007.

She was awarded "Outstanding Lay Person" of Immaculate Conception Church in 1994 and received the Knights of Columbus Community and State of Indiana Award.

Mrs. Jansen received the Noble County Community Foundation "Giver of Gifts" Award in 1998 and was a member of the Noble County Prayer Breakfast Committee for 25 years.

She was also a member of the Beta Chapter of Tri Kappa, the Lady Elks, the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 86, and the Noble County Women's Democratic Club.

She was "Miss Avilla" in 1940 and graduated from Avilla High School in 1942.

Mrs. Jansen was born in Avilla on Oct. 21, 1924, to William L. and Alice C. (Schmenk) Carteaux. She married Dr. Bernard W. Jansen on Sept. 27, 1947 in Avilla. and he preceded her in death Jan. 22, 1990.

Surviving are seven sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas L. and Linda Jansen of Kendallville, James S. and Pam Jansen of Kendallville, Robert W. and Gwyn Jansen of St. Johns, Mich., Gerard A. and Lori Jansen of Kendallville, Michael P. and Brenda Jansen of Kendallville, Jon J. and Noel Jansen of Indianapolis and Douglas A. and Susan Jansen of Kendallville; 15 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Russell and Nelle Carteaux of Avilla and Tom and Carolyn Carteaux of Auburn.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Teresa, Barbara and Beverly; and two brothers, Larry and Robert Carteaux.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville with the Rev. Jacob Gall officiating. Burial will be at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla. Pallbearers will be Christopher Jansen, Nicholas Jansen, Paul Jansen, Kyle Jansen, Kevin Jansen and Joel Pippenger.

Calling will be from noon to 7 p.m. Sunday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville, with the rosary recited at 6:45p.m.

Memorials are to the American Red Cross, Rosary Sodality or to Masses.

View a video tribute by Sunday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
October 19 2008 Auburn, Indiana

VanHorne active, never stressed

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Mary VanHorne was a lot of things to a lot of people — a great friend, a spirited travel companion, a talented bridge player, a caring real estate broker.

She was kind, gentle and trusting, born in a kinder, gentler time, according to her family, but she was also a bright and independent spitfire with a great sense of humor.

VanHorne died July 17 at the age of 101.

"The reason she lived to be 101 was, she didn't stress," said her granddaughter, Clara Mary Winebrenner. "She cruised through life."

VanHorne was born Mary Grant on April 9, 1907, in Columbia City. She was a gifted student and started at Indiana University when she was 16. She graduated in 1928 with a degree in Latin and math, and also lettered in several sports, according to her son, Grant VanHorne. She wanted to go to law school after she graduated, VanHorne said, but her father told her women didn't do that, so she went to teach. She was the very first gym teacher at a school in Columbia City, then taught elementary school in Fort Wayne until she married her college sweetheart, Winslow VanHorne, on Jan. 30, 1936. She quit her job, because married women couldn't teach, and stayed at home to raise her son and her daughter, Susan Fischer.

"She always supported my dad, and always played the housewife for him," VanHorne said.

She was neither a great housekeeper nor a great cook, Fischer recalls, but she was sure to have three nutrious meals on the table at the same time every day.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mary VanHorne enjoys playing the piano during a cruise through the Mediterranean when she was in her 90s. VanHorne died July 17 at the age of 101.

VanHorne was active in the community. She started a chapter of P.E.O., a philanthropic society for women, and was a volunteer at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum and DeKalb Memorial Hospital. She also belonged to Kappa Delta Sorority, the Ladies Literary Club, Greenhurst Country Club and several bridge clubs.

She earned her real estate license in the 1970s, and spent the next 20 years buying and selling homes.

Often, VanHorne would buy a house then sell it on contract with little or no down payment.

"I kind of looked over those deals, and I suspect she might have had 30 to 50 of them over the years, and only two of them went bad," Grant VanHorne said.

Mary VanHorne also loved to travel, Fischer recalls. Once, VanHorne asked Fischer if she should spend the money to go to Egypt.

"I told her, 'If you don't spend it to go to Egypt, I'll inherit it and then I'll go to Egypt!'" Fischer said. "She went to Egypt."

Winebrenner remembers when her grandmother went to New Orleans. Her travel companions decided to stay in one night, but VanHorne wanted to go out. She decided to go enjoy Mardis Gras by herself.

"It scares me to think where she went by herself," Winebrenner said.

"We've all decided the good Lord watched out for her," Fischer laughed.

VanHorne always decided what she wanted to do, Grant VanHorne said. She made the decision to move to Smith Farms Manor "on the basis she wanted more company" and people with whom to play bridge, she said. After she hurt her hip when she was in her 90s, she knew she would have to go to a nursing home.

"She was very positive where she wanted to go," he said, and she moved to Sacred Heart in Avilla. She even had a hand in her funeral — five pages of written instructions of exactly how she wanted her funeral service to go. A few things were changed, but they mostly stayed true to her instructions.

But more than anything, her family and friends mattered to her most, according to her family members.

She enjoyed spending time with people, Winebrenner said. She recalls that when she and her husband, Denny, were dating, VanHorne often would go out with them.

"She wasn't the third wheel. I was!" Winebrenner laughed.

"There was nothing she liked better than a family gathering," she added.

Melanie Yarian

AUBURN — Melanie Ann Yarian, 17, of Auburn died at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008, at her home, following a valiant six-year battle with cancer. Loved ones were at her side as she passed peacefully to be with the Lord.

Melanie Yarian

She was a DeKalb High School junior, and prior to her illness, she enjoyed dancing and playing the piano. Her greatest wish was to be able to return to school and her love for whales and dolphins was the inspiration for many art and science projects.

Her greatest joy was to swim with the dolphins. A gift card from her was often handcrafted as she took pleasure in a variety of activities including scrapbooking, sewing and textiles, painting and jewelry making. She loved the theater and ballet, and possessed a passion for nearly every kind of music.

She was a member of Concord United Methodist Church, Auburn.

On June 26, 1991, she was born in Auburn to Lawrence G. Yarian of Auburn and Joy (Hayes) Yarian of Auburn. They survive.

Also surviving are two brothers, Matthew S. Yarian and Lawrence "Larry" Yarian II, both of Auburn; maternal grandparents, John and Sharon Hayes of St. Joe; and great-grandmother, Evelyn Muck of Auburn.

Her paternal grandparents, Donald and Alice Yarian, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home with Rev. Heather Berkshire of Concord United Methodist Church officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and 10-11 a.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Memorials are to the Melanie Ann Yarian Scholarship Fund, c/o of DeKalb County Community Foundation.

Condolences may be sent and registration online at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Cyndi Philson

AUBURN — Cyndi K. Philson, 51, of Auburn died Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, at her residence.

She was employed at the Coldwater Community Health Center in Coldwater, Mich., Parkview Hospital for several years, and most recently she was an auditor with Gallant Group of Fort Wayne.

She was a member of Life Bridge Church, Relay For Life and the Red Hat Society. She was a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1988 to 1996.

Surviving are her husband of 31 years, Kim Philson, Auburn; parents Terry and Sandra MacDonald, Union City, Mich.; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Lori and Jim Reed, Fresno, Calif., and Linda and Tony Torres, Minneapolis, Minn.

Celebration of Life services will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Life Bridge Church, 12719 Corbin Road, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. today at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, Auburn, and one hour prior to services at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society/Shelter, 5221 U.S. 6, Butler IN 46721 or the American Cancer Society.

Martha Yoder

AUBURN — Martha Ann Yoder, 86, of Auburn died Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

She was a homemaker, and a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, Auburn Woman's Club, Tri-Kappa Sorority and the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.).

On Sept. 23, 1922, in Logansport, Ind., she was born to Paul B. and Maggie (Reighter) Forgey. She married Marlin D. Yoder on Sept. 9, 1945, in Logansport. He preceded her in death on May 15, 1990.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Alan L. and Kathy Yoder, Kalona, Iowa, and Paul D. and Rebecca Yoder, Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Linda A. and Phillip Bly, Indianapolis; a daughter-in-law, Kay Yoder; a brother, James Forgey; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Robert M. Yoder; two brothers, John and Robert Forgey; and two sisters, Janet Breese and Harriet Albertson.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Auburn Presbyterian Church with Rev. Nancy Becker officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn

Memorials are to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

THE EVENING STAR 2008 Auburn, Indiana
October 21

Margaret Drerup

AUBURN — Margaret J. Drerup, 90, departed this earth to join her Heavenly Father on Friday, October 17th.

She was born on August 26, 1918, in Auburn to the late Roscoe G. and Lydia Jane "Jennie" (Steward) Walter. She married Paul H. Drerup on Sept. 5, 1942, in Auburn. He preceded her in death on July 13, 1985.

Mrs. Drerup

Surviving are sons, Joesph (Marlene) Drerup, Olney, Md., David (Kathleen) Drerup, Oxford, IN, Stephen (Roanne) Drerup, Roanoke, IN, and Vincent (Catherine Fast) Drerup, Cincinnati, Ohio; daughters, Joan Drerup, Sherman Oaks, Calif., Suzanne Drerup Davis, Auburn, IN, Rosemary Drerup, Dallas, Texas, Louise (Keith) Kelly, Palm Harbour, Fla., Teresa Drerup (Kurt) Ofer, Cooperstown, N.Y., and Christine (Dewey) Williams, Muncie, IN; 15 grandchildren, Michael Drerup, Daniel Drerup, Amy Drerup, Kevin Drerup, Beth Drerup, Stephenie Drerup, Scott Drerup, Elizabeth Drerup, Kristen Kelly, Ashley Kelly, Virginia Ofer, Hans Ofer, Max Ofer, Amanda Williams and Mark Carlson; a stepgrandchild, Aaron Davis; 10 great-grandchildren; and a sister, FaraLee (Joe) Baidinger, Angola, IN.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Marion Walter on July 8, 1941; and a son, Philip Drerup on December 25, 1996.

Margaret graduated in 1936 from Spencerville High School and was the salutatorian of her class. She then attended both International Business College in Fort Wayne and Ball State College in Muncie.

Margaret loved to travel, making many excursions to Australia, Russia, many countries in Europe and most of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, DeKalb County Historical Society and the DeKalb Memorial Auxiliary where she volunteered at the DeKalb Hospital and in the Curiosity Shop.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, November 8 at 11 a.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, IN.

Memorials may be given to the DeKalb County Youth for Christ or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Beulah Hinman

ANGOLA — Beulah Irene Hinman, 77, of Angola began her spiritual journey on Sunday Oct. 19, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. She was born February 20, 1931, in Finley, IN to Carl and Mildred (Giles) Bush.

She worked at GE in Fort Wayne then for the MSD of Steuben County before retiring December 31, 1992.

She married DeWayne Hinman August 4, 1951, in the Chapel in the Garden in Angola and he survives.

Also surviving is a son and daughter in law, Eric and Jo Hinman of Waterloo; three daughters and son in laws, Cathy and Jim Bush of Fort Wayne, Deb and Ron Fraley of Ashley and Carrie and Rob Green of Sumas, Wash.; a brother and sister in law, Carl and Catherine Bush of Kettering, Ohio; and a sister and brother in law, Carolyn and Kermit Baerlin of Bryan, Ohio. There are nine grandchildren, Emily Bush, Donald (Mindy) McKean, Angella German, Rebecca Fraley, Landon Hinman, Katie Hinman, Max Green and Isaac Green and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a granddaughter, Shallon Bush.

Memorial services to celebrate Mrs. Hinman's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements handled by Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Memorials can be directed to FamilyLife Ministries, P.O. Box 898, Sumas, Wash. 98295

Herman Handshoe

MONGO — Herman Handshoe, 60, died Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008, at his home in Mongo.

Mr. Handshoe had spent his entire 42-year employment history with Dalton Foundry in Kendallville. He had worked in many positions at the foundry and was currently a crane operator.

Mr. Handshoe

He was a member of the Independent Baptist Church in South Milford.

He was born in Handshoe, Ky., on Dec. 10, 1947, to Floyd and Dollie (Griffith) Handshoe. He married Audrey Ann Kiser on Aug. 12, 1972, in Ontario, Ind. She survives in Mongo.

Also surviving are his mother-in-law, Alma Kiser of Mongo; six brothers and their spouses, Hershel and Margaret Handshoe, Buford and Gaynelle Handshoe and Arnold Handshoe, all of Hueysville, Ky., Thurman Handshoe of Stroh, Johnny and Linda Handshoe of LaGrange and Daniel Handshoe of Mongo; two sisters and their spouses, Trudy and Bill McClish of Howe and Reva and Ron Livergood of Auburn; a host of nieces and nephews including Barry Kiser of Kendallville and Amy Bolen of Wolcottville, whom they help raise for several years; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Wayde and Rosella Kiser of LaGrange.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Timothy Royd Handshoe, who died at birth in 1975.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Independent Baptist Church in South Milford with the Rev. Earl Bolen and Rev. Willie Collins officiating. Burial will be at Mongo Cemetery in Mongo. Pallbearers will be Granville "Bud" Bolen, Barry Kiser, Wayde Kiser, Hershel E. Handshoe, Bill McClish and Ron Livergood.

Calling will be after 3 p.m. today at the church, with a service at 7 p.m.

Memorials are to the LaGrange County Cancer Association.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Donald Litten

AUBURN — Donald Roy Litten, 75, of Auburn died Monday, Oct. 20, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Christian Chapel Cemetery in Merriam.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the donor's choice, Diabetes Association or the Heart Association.

Kenneth Heitz

GARRETT — Kenneth D. Heitz, 62, of Garrett died at 12:23 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Heitz worked in maintenance for the Garrett-Keyser-Butler School system for 35 years, retiring in 2002.

He was a member of Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren in Garrett.

He was born Dec. 25, 1945, in Garrett to J. Emory and Eunice M. (Flory) Heitz. His father is deceased and his mother survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, Kenneth D. Heitz Jr. of Auburn; two daughters, Sharon Heitz and Kimberly Heitz, both of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, John P. and Sandy Heitz of Kendallville; and a sister, Sharon Heitz of New Haven.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Brad Hardesty officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Friday.

Memorials are to the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Donald Litten

AUBURN — Donald Roy Litten, 75, of Auburn died Monday, Oct. 20, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Litten retired in 1998 from Auburn Gear after 35 years of service. He had also been employed as a machinist with Dana Corp. in Fort Wayne for six years.

Mr. Litten

He was a graduate of Central High School.

Mr. Litten was a member of the Moose Lodge in Auburn.

He was a native of Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his wife, Goldie B. Litten of Auburn; a daughter, Shelly (Yort) Somkit of Corunna; a son, Donald G. Litten of Auburn; three grandchildren; three stepgrandsons; a great-granddaughter; a brother, Billy W. Litten of Fort Wayne; a half brother, Eugene V. Litten of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert E. Litten and Shirl V. Litten.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Christian Chapel Cemetery in Merriam.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the donor's choice, Diabetes Association or the Heart Association.

Tammy Jacobs

AUBURN — Tammy J. Jacobs, 39, of Auburn died Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Lane Andrews officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Saturday.

Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 24 2008

Tammy Jacobs

AUBURN — Tammy J. Jacobs, 39, of Auburn died Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Mrs. Jacobs was a homemaker.

Mrs. Jacobs

She was a native of Auburn and a member of New Hope Church in Albion.

Surviving are her husband, Darrell W. Jacobs of Auburn; a daughter, Brittany M. Jacobs of Auburn; two son, Brady P. Jacobs and Bailey R. Jacobs, both of Auburn; a grandson; her mother, Barbara Dunn of Kendallville; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Lana Combs of Warsaw and Robert and Kristen Combs of Albion; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., with the Rev. Lane Andrews officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Saturday.

Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 26 2008

Nettie Marshall

AUBURN — Nettie L. Marshall, 73, of Auburn, died at 5:55 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a homemaker and member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. Marshall

She was born Dec. 25, 1934. in Carlisle County, Ky., to James Alton Thomas and Mary A. (Blanford) Thomas, and they preceded her in death.

She married Charles L. Marshall on Jan. 16, 1954, in Bardwell, Ky., and he died March 12, 2008.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Charles "Ron" and Ann Marshall of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Lisa and Scott Hess of Auburn, Debra Baker of Auburn and Cathy and Tom Goss of Goshen; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; three brothers, Bob Thomas of Chicago, Charles Thomas of Fancy Farm, Ky., and Bill Thomas of Mayfield, Ky.; and two sisters, Betty Jo Castellani of Chicago and Julia Elder of Mayfield, Ky.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a daughter, Mary Laverne Marshall; two brothers, Jay and Tommy Thomas; and a sister, Aunita Hayden.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Charles Catholic Church in Bardwell, Ky.; with Father Masilamani Suvakkin officiating. Burial will follow in St. Charles Catholic Cemetery in Bardwell. A Rosary service will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Charles Catholic Church or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements. To sign the online guestbook or send a condolence, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Henry Shirley

AUBURN — Henry L. "Hank" Shirley, 95, of Auburn died Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, at Lakeland Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Angola.

He was born July 14, 1913, in Sherwood, Ohio, to Lester and Marvel "Belle" (Reyff) Shirley.

He graduated from Hicksville High School in 1931. He owned and operated the Lakeside Grocery at Lake James. He worked 17 years at General Electric in Fort Wayne as a special motors machine operator. He was a World War II Army Disabled Veteran and was awarded the Purple Heart. He attended Fairview Missionary Church in Angola. He was a member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn, DAV and the National Rifle Association.

He married Dorotha B. Sinn on April 23, 1937, in Nappanee, and she died July 17, 2007.

He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Suzanne Shirley of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law Laurel and Pete Bolles of Indianapolis; a sister and brother-in-law, June Marie and Robert Skinner of Coldwater, Mich.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, a brother, Lester Shirley, and a sister, Mary Reuter.

A memorial service will be Saturday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Pastor Dave Cole will officiate. Burial will be in 6 Corners Cemetery, Hicksville, Ohio. Military graveside services will be conducted by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memorials can be directed to Disabled American Veterans or Cameron Memorial Hospice.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 26 2008

Roy Prosser

WATERLOO — Roy E. Prosser, 49, of Waterloo died Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He worked at Auburn Foundry for 23 years, then for Dalton Foundry in Kendallville for a year-and-a-half. He was an active member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo and was an avid hunter and sportsman.

He was born March 10, 1959, in Fort Wayne to Richard L. and Kay F. (Lynch) Prosser. They survive in Auburn.

He married Linda (Shoudel) Miller on Nov. 23, 1996, at New Hope Christian Center, and she survives.

He is also survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Jennifer l. and Brian Sparkman of Waterloo and Tara M. and Michael Tigner of Fort Wayne; a stepdaughter and her husband, Laurie A. and Nick Metel of Fort Wayne; seven grandsons, Nicholas Tigner, Chase Sparkman, Adon Jacob Sparkman, Jacob Metel, Landon Metel, Alexandar Sparkman and Michael Tigner Jr.; a sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Brad Lehman of Onsted, Mich.; three brothers and four sisters-in-law, Bruce and Amy Prosser of Warsaw, Kurt and Emily Prosser of Auburn, Kent and Stacy Prosser of Butler and Fran Prosser of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Brian Prosser, and a stepson, Joey Miller.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. The Rev. Randy Stine will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to IOPA or New Hope Christian Center.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 29 2008

Gerald Carper

GARRETT — Gerald W. Carper, 78, of Garrett died at 7:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. Carper was a tool room foreman at Kitchen Quip in Waterloo for 35 years, retiring in 1992.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

Mr. Carper was a member of the Garrett American Legion Post and the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

He was born Feb. 26, 1930, in Garrett to Victor C. and Olga Faye (Miller) Carper.

Surviving are two brothers and sisters-in-law, Donald and Marjorie Carper of Garrett and James and Jerilyn Carper of Kendallville; nephews, Rex Carper of Copley, Ohio, and Larry Kammerer of Mission, Texas; and nieces, Mary Lee Freeze of Garrett, Jolene Carper of Indianapolis and Kathy Wells of Waco, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Gene Carper, and a sister, Joan Kammerer.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with Pastor James Lilley of the First Church of Christ officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery near Garrett.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

Send condolences or sign the guest book at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
October 30 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Clinton Bherns

KENDALLVILLE — Clinton Everett Bherns, 71, of Kendallville died on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008, at his residence on Cree Lake north of Kendallville.

Mr. Bherns

Mr. Bherns was born in Altona, Ind., on June 26, 1937, to Clinton Everett Bherns Sr. and Rose Irene (Krick) Bherns.

He graduated from Garrett High School in 1955 and that same year married Patricia Ann Porter on Dec. 5, 1955 in Angola, Ind.

Clinton retired from Favorite Brands in Kendallville in 1999.

He was a full-time fireman for the City of Kendallville from 1968-78 and previously worked in area foundries.

Mr. Bherns was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church in Kendallville.

He was very dedicated to the church and active over the years as a deacon and trustee and in custodial maintenance. He also served on the pastoral call committee.

He was past president and involved with East Noble Band Boosters when his children were in high school.

Clinton enjoyed gardening, woodworking and lending a helping hand his neighbors.

He loved and cared for his rabbits and dog and, in his younger days, loved to hunt and fish.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Patricia Bherns of Kendallville; two sons, John and Paula Bherns of Skinner Lake, Albion and Kenneth and Deb Bherns of Fort Wayne; two daughters, Kathy and Steve Heiman of Avilla and Jenny and Randy Kline of Kendallville; 11 grandchildren, Kim Doyle of Pittsburgh, Erik Bherns of Hicksville, Ohio, Jessica Bherns of Kendallville, Nichole Hoyt of Avilla, Andy Foster of Fort Wayne, Angela Foster of Lafayette, Tyler Bherns of Albion, and Joseph, Rachel, Ben and Leah Kline all of Kendallville; eight stepgrandchildren, Lindy Munson, Cori Zolman, Darcy Fish, and Austin, Alicia, Brittney, Crystal and David Otolski; 13 great-grandchildren; his father-in-law, George Workman of Kendallville; a sister-in-law, Alice Grey of Kendallville; a brother-in-law, Mike and Donetta Workman of Kendallville; and two sisters, Diana and Jim Schultis of Albion and Rose Mary Gottfried of Garrett.

Visitation will be Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, from 3-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville.

Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Percy Young and the Rev. David Wilson.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials are to First Baptist Church.

View a video tribute by today or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR 2008 Auburn, Indiana
October 30

Philip Romero

BUTLER — Philip A. "Tony" Romero, 69, of Butler and formerly of Angola died Tuesday, October 28, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Mr. Romero was a journeyman electrician working for 15 years with Clear Lake Electric until his retirement in 1999. He previously owned and operated the Service Man Company in Angola for 10 years.

He served in the U.S. Army in 1960 through 1963 in Thailand and Hawaii. He was a member of the Angola American Legion Post 31 and also served as Past Commander. He served in many offices in the 4th district of the American Legion. For several years he played Taps for many military funerals throughout Steuben County and for many Memorial Day Services.

He was a graduate of Angola High School, class of 1957. He was a member of the Hamilton Church of Christ and served as an elder. Before that he was an elder and active member of Pleasant View Church in Angola for 25 years. He was also a member of Local 305 IBEW, the Rotary Club of Angola, Masonic Lodge in Angola and the Gideons.

He had a passion for trains and was a long time member of the Garrett Model Railroad Club and the National Model Railroad Club. He loved to share his passion for trains with children and often invited students to his home to see and run his model trains.

On August 15, 1939, in Angola, Ind., he was born to Louis P. and Margaret (Fast) Romero. He married Ann (Miller) on August 25, 2001, at the Hamilton Church of Christ. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving is one son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Marcy Romero of Lakeland, Florida; one daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Jason Clift of Grand Blanc, Michigan; one step daughter, Sue Hollinger Yustus and her husband Joe; three stepsons, Robert Hollinger and his wife, Olive, Steven Hollinger, and Jeffery Hollinger and his wife, Debra; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard and Jonella Romero of Ventura, Calif., and Frederick and Barbara Romero of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren, Christopher, Danielle, Abigail, Joshua, Hannah, and Caleb; nine step grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, David A. Romero, who passed away in 1992.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with David Payne and Jeff Alexander officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Golden Lake. Military graveside services will be conducted by the Angola American Legion.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Church of Christ Building Fund.

Emily Curie

ST. JOE — Emily Marie Curie, 73, of St. Joe died Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Curie had worked part-time as a seamstress at various shops.

Mrs. Curie

She was a member of the last graduating class at Spencerville High School in 1953.

Mrs. Curie served as a district women's leader for the Indiana Farm Bureau from 1994 to 2003. She also served in various volunteer groups including as a 4-H leader and with the domestic arts category of the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair.

She was born Aug. 13, 1935, in Defiance County, Ohio, to Oleus "Guy" and Erma Leota (Kisabeth) Shull. She married Harold G. Curie on Feb. 19, 1954, in Coburn Corners Church of Christ in St. Joe. He survives in St. Joe.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Candace Curie of Gaithersburg, Md.; a daughter and son-in-law, Leota and Philip Bauman of Naperville, Ill.; three grandchildren; and a sister, Velores Means of Newville.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a granddaughter, Holly Rardin.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Coburn Corners Church of Christ in St. Joe, corner of S.R. 101 and C.R. 64. Pastor Larry Carter will officiate. Burial will be in Alton Cemetery.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Memorials are to Alton Cemetery Endowment Fund, care of Coburn Corners Church of Christ, 6813 C.R. 64, St. Joe, IN 46785.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville is in charge of arrangements.

Billy Hayward

HUDSON — Billy Joe Hayward, 76, of Hudson died at 10:20 P.M. Thursday, Oct 30, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Hayward had worked at NAPA in Auburn and at the Auburn Foundry and was retired from auto sales and repair.

Mr. Hayward

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean conflict.

Mr. Hayward was a member of Orland American Legion Post 423 and Moose Lodge 1301 in Kendallville.

He was born Sept. 26, 1932, in Stroh to Ray B. and Glenna V. (Fleshman) Hayward.

Surviving are his former wife, Wilma Jean Hayward of Corunna; two daughters, Marla K. Kretz of Waterloo and Brenda C. Hayward of Van Wert, Ohio; a brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Dorothy Hayward of Hudson; a sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Ron Weller of Jacksonville, Fla.; his grandchildren, Jeremy Caster, John Hayward, Brandy and Adam Miller, Nikki Kretz and her fiance Troy Weimer, and Emilee Hayward; and a great-grandchild, Connor Weimer.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jackie A Hayward in 2007; a son-in-aw, Tracy Kretz in 2008; and a brother, Douglas Hayward in 2005.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson with services and military rites by Orland American Legion Post 423.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Stroh or Helmer fire departments or the Humane Society.

Condolences may be sent online to Johnson@bnin.net.

Grace Somers

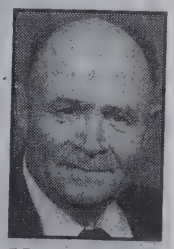
AUBURN — Grace Eileen Somers, 80, died Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Private graveside services will be at a later date. McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

Russell Walter

KENDALLVILLE — Russell M. Walter, 84, of Kendallville, died Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, at Kendallville Manor Health Care, Kendallville.


Mr. Walter

He graduated from St. Joe High School in 1942 and served in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division 307th ABN Engineers during World War II. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Walter worked for more than 30 years at American Linen in Fort Wayne, retiring in 1985. He then worked at Fort Wayne Newspapers, retiring in 1995.

He was a member of VFW Post 2749 and American Legion Post 86 in Kendallville, and was an avid White Sox fan. He drove Sunday school buses for more than 40 years, first for the Assembly of God Church and later at Calvary Temple, both in Fort Wayne, and became a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo after moving to Kendallville. He drove for Aging and In Home Services, delivering meals in the Kendallville area for several years.

On Aug. 13, 1924, he was born in St. Joe to George and Florence (Snyder) Walter.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, O. Edward and Ethelyn Walter, Cape Coral, Fla., and H. Daniel and Janis Walter, Fort Myers, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Judy and Alvin Moore, Kendallville, and Mary and Steve Boggs, Fort Wayne; two sisters-in-law, Ruth Walter, Fort Myers, and Mayola Walter, Butler; 13 grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were: his wife, Frieda Walter; three brothers, Dale Walter, George Walter Jr., and Lewis Walter; and two sisters, Leatha Rosenbury and Vera Rosenbury.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Hope Christian Center Bus ministry.

Grace Somers

AUBURN — Grace Eileen Somers, 80, died Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Born Oct. 7, 1928, in Westmont, Ill., Mrs. Somers was a Florida resident from 1978 until 2003. She worked as a secretary at the Fort Wayne State Hospital and at North Ridge General in Florida. She and her husband were small business owners in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and she was a volunteer at JFK Hospital in West Palm Beach after her retirement. A pet lover, reader and collector, she earned her private pilot's license at the age of 55.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Keith E., in 1995.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Sandra Gentile of Angola.

Private graveside services will be at a later date. McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

Buell cared about people, not things

"My wife wanted two boys, two girls and a pony. She got them all just the way she wanted. She was a good mother and made it easy for me to be a good father, with just the right amount of discipline, I think. As my children grew old enough, I would coach their Little League games. My youngest daughter raised calves that I bought for her. We lived on a farm and all the kids helped me make hay. I had good kids. All my kids were better than I was, and I always told them that."

— as dictated by Lee Buell at Lakeland Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, June 2008

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Marjorie and Lee Buell sit at their home on their 50th anniversary, 10 years ago, framed by their children, from left, Lee Ann Oberlin, Pamela Buell, Mitchell Buell and Dennis Buell. Lee died at the age of 80 on Oct. 21, 2008.

BY AMY OBERLIN
amyo@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — My grandpa, Lee "Toad" Buell, always knew where his children were and what they were doing. Even after his stroke, when he became homebound, and later went to the nursing home, his favorite subject was his children.

He was so proud of them: Dennis and Mitchell — both truckers, reminiscent of Grandpa's days as a livestock hauler; my mom, Lee Ann Oberlin, manager of Jo Ann Fabrics in Angola; and my aunt, Pamela Buell, associate vice chancellor and director of medical alumni and development programs at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

If you had asked Grandpa about himself and his life, he surely would have started with his children, and his wife, Marjorie.

If you asked people in the community about Grandpa, they might tell you about a man who helped them obtain their first house, or one time made them a sweet deal …

Elson Lee Roy Buell Jr. was born on June 28, 1928, to Elson Monroe and Clara Catherine Durr Buell, the youngest of five children. He played baseball and was on the varsity basketball team at Metz High School for four years before he graduated.

He married Marjorie Joan Deetz on Sept. 24, 1949, and they started their home in Alvarado.

That first year, they went everywhere together. Grandma rode along with Grandpa on the tractor, "and we worked in the field together," she said. They had a sign language, said Grandma, and worked "side by side until the babies came."

First Lee Ann, then Pam were born, as Grandpa worked in the fields and hauled cows, hogs and other livestock to and from area markets. Mitchell was born, and then Dennis; each child a year apart.

They went on family excursions into the Western United States to pick up cattle. They raised and cared for animals on their farm, though the livestock was always changing. Farm equipment would come and go, always traded for something different or better.

"He wasn't a person who liked objects," said Grandma.

"He loved people. … Material things weren't all that important to him."

Nevertheless, as the children grew, Grandpa made sure they had everything they could possibly need.

"He gave me everything I wanted. He was a great dad," said my mother. "Ponies, cars, you name it."

Grandpa coached a Little League team, the Pirates, which both Mitchell and Dennis played on. The girls had piano lessons and instruments for the school band.

Grandpa served on the Hamilton Community Schools Board and as the children grew up, in the mid-1960s, Grandpa served as Richland Township trustee.

When the Buells moved to S.R. 1, Grandpa started Buell Tire Service in a former livestock barn, selling vehicle and tractor tires. Mitchell worked and farmed alongside him.

"That was 365 days, and we had people come on Christmas Day," remembers Grandma.

In those days, the grandchildren began to arrive, with Mitchell moving into a home just north of Grandma and Grandpa and Dennis building one just south of them. My family lived nearby in rural Pleasant Lake. Auntie Pam was away at Indiana University and later began her professional life in Bloomington. Her visits were always anticipated, not in the least Grandpa, who mother says may not have understood my aunt's pursuits of higher education, but was "oh, so proud of her."

"He was always really proud of all of us, and we knew it," she said.

When Grandma and Grandpa moved to Angola in 1979, Grandpa worked on the Indiana Toll Road for several years before starting his career as a real estate agent.

"So many people came to me and said 'I would never have had a place if it wasn't for him,'" mused Grandma.

After tenaciously taking and retaking the exam for his real estate license, Grandpa became an agent for Fred Beck, owner of Andrews-Beck Realty. They then formed a partnership, Beck-Buell, and opened a realty on the 300 block of North Wayne Street. For a time, Grandma worked at the Baskins-Robbins ice cream shop next door.

Grandpa had a huge wooden eagle in his office, a memento of some interesting trade. He had other knick knacks, particularly clowns, which he loved and which people gifted him with occasionally.

"He was a great partner and he always liked helping people," said Beck. "I was proud to have him as a partner."

He always had his client's best interest at heart, "and he was very successful," said Beck.

I remember when the Beck-Buell office on Lake James opened, and visited it a few times before Grandpa moved on. He worked at the Krebs-Putnam office on East Maumee Street for a couple more years before the stroke finally cut his pace.

Grandpa had always been busy. When he wasn't selling houses, he could often be found at the Ellis Junction, or elsewhere, playing a hand of cards.

Grandpa would breeze in and out, stopping for meals, but sometimes skipping them due to an appointment, or was it a card game?

He was always smiling.

If I was there with Grandma when he arrived, he would inevitably reach into his pocket and pull out a coin or a trinket and flash it between his fingers.

"Do you know what this is?" he'd ask, sporting a Susan B. Anthony dollar or possibly a more unique prize. He might tease me with it for a little while, but it would always be placed in my hand. I think we all have decks of cards with nicks in the corners from Grandpa's forays to Las Vegas.

He was a busy man, but always a part of our lives.

After the stroke, and a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease and Louie Body Dementia, Grandpa slowed down. He had time to chat and drink a cup of coffee. He watched the national news and enjoyed visits from family and friends.

Howard Buell, my grandfather's nephew whom he was particularly close to, said in those later days, Grandpa began to show another side of himself. From a kind-hearted wheeler and dealer, Grandpa transformed into a family centerpiece and his caring attitude deepened and matured.

For awhile, Grandma and Grandpa owned a cottage at Silver Lake, and spent long days fishing for bluegill with cane poles with Dennis or Mom.

Time progressed and robbed Grandpa of the ability to walk the teetering dock, then of his ability to make it from his chair in the living room to the kitchen.

He moved to the Laurels of DeKalb in Auburn in August 2006, and about a year later transferred to Lakeland nursing home in Angola.

Even at the nursing homes, he saw people he knew and enjoyed talking and eating meals with others. He always had a smile and was happy to see you; and looked forward to telling you what his children were doing.

Grandpa died Oct. 21, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola — his children and wife surrounding him, and a legacy that includes 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His ashes are buried in Edon Cemetery, Edon, Ohio.

Earl Creager

GARRETT — Earl E. Creager, 84, of Garrett, died at 7 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008 at his home.

Mr. Creager worked as a district sales manager for Chicago Metallic for 25 years, retiring in 1993.

He was a member of Garrett Post 178 of the American Legion and the Garrett Eagles.

He was born Sept. 7, 1924, in Garrett, to Roy E. and Dell Marie (Topper) Creager.

On Aug. 17, 1946, in Kendallville, he married Betty A, Weaver. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are two sons, David and Cindy Creager and Tony Creager and his companion, Rhonda Listenburger, all of Garrett; a daughter, Pollyann Creager of Albuquerque, N.M.; two grandsons, Matthew Creager of Garrett and Mark Creager of Fort Wayne; two great-grandchildren, Alyssa and Andrea Creager of Fort Wayne; and a brother, Roy "Rosie" Creager of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by a son, William Creager; a sister, Madelaine Zumbaugh; and two brothers, Wayne and William Creager.

Funeral services will be Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Jim Lilley of the Garrett First Church of Christ officiating.

Calling will be from 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday prior to the service.

Memorials are to Parkinson's Disease Association or American Heart Association.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Vivian Gass

FORT WAYNE — Vivian Maxine Gass, 95, of Fort Wayne, formerly of Auburn, died Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

She was born on March 28, 1913, in DeKalb County to Roscoe and Gladys (Nelson) Rickett. She married Charles F. Gass on Nov. 28, 1935, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett. He preceded her in death on July 31, 2006.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Connie and Marvin Wolf, Auburn, and Marcia and Dick Cook Middlebury; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, her parents preceded her in death.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Michaels Catholic Church, rural Waterloo, with Fr. David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Memorials are to St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

Rita Baker

AUBURN — Rita B. Baker, 64, of Auburn died Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

She was a homemaker and attended New Hope Church and small group on Thursdays in Waterloo.

On Sept. 6, 1944, she was born in Flint, Mich.

Surviving are a sister, Welcome Johnson, Boyne Falls, Mich.; a brother and sister-in-law, Don and Jan Humbarger, Lead Hill, Ark.; her companion Oscar Renfrow, Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

A sister, Rowena Jones, and an aunt, Pearl Knisley, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Fairfield Center Cemetery.

Calling will be from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

Dennis Romich

ST. JOE — Dennis F. Romich, 55, went to be with his lord Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born April 6, 1953, in Gary, IN, to the late Fred and Helen M. (Harms) Romich.

Mr. Romich

He was a bolt maker working for Nucor in St. Joe since 1987. Prior to that he worked for 14 years at Gary Screw and Bolt in Gary.

He was a member of the Auburn Alliance Church where he was a greeter and very active in the church's children's programs.

He married Theresa Kirkley on Oct. 5, 1973, in Gary, IN., and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Michael D. and Rose Romich and Ryan E. Romich, all of Leo; a sister and brother-in-law, Karen J. and Frank Rice of Jupiter, Fla.; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Laura and Emmett Gordon of Fort Myers, Fla., Judy and Gary Frederick of Griffith, IN., and James and Sharon Kirkley and John Kirkley of Gary, IN.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at the Auburn Alliance Church. Rev. Clark Veltkamp will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is today from 2 till 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and also one hour prior to the service Wednesday at the church.

Memorials can be directed to Auburn Alliance Church Youth and Kids Club.

James Diederich

GARRETT — James I. Diederich, 70, of Garrett died Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Weldon May

ALBION — Weldon May, 94, of LaGrange and formerly of Albion died Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange.

Mr. May was the retired president of the Albion Production Credit Association, working there from 1935 until his retirement in 1980.

Mr. May

He moved to Albion in 1935 from Newville and remained there until 2006 when he moved to LaGrange.

Mr. May was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Albion. He was also a member of the Albion Rotary Club, Albion Lodge No. 97 F&AM, Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne, Mizpah Shrine of Fort Wayne, LaGrange County Shrine Club and the Prentiss Chapter No. 178 O.E.S.

He was born on July 10, 1914, in DeKalb County to Edwin R. and Maud (Seely) May. On May 19, 1937, he married Margaret Scott in Hicksville, Ohio. She preceded him in death on Feb. 2, 2004.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Mariellyn and Douglas Rollins of Cedarburg, Wis., two sons and daughters-in-law, Loren D. and Kathy May of Bloomingdale, Ill. and Lowell E. and Linda May of LaGrange; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Mary E. Taylor; and two brothers, Waldo and Wallace May.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Albion with the Rev. Thelma Megill-Cobbler officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery in Albion.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange. A Masonic service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday by the Albion Lodge No. 97 F&AM.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Online condolences maybe sent to www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Stanley Parrett

GARRETT — Stanley D. Parrett, 54, of Garrett, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn with the Rev Brad Hardesty officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials are to Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren, Garrett.

John McMillen Jr.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — John Donald McMillen Jr., 64, died Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, at Third Medical Group Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska.

He was born on Nov. 10, 1943, in Hicksville, Ohio, to John D. McMillen Sr. and Geraldine Gillespie.

Surviving are two daughters, Suzy Obringer and Beth Baumgardner both of Greenville, Ohio; two sons, John "JP" McMillen of Bethel, Alaska, and John D. McMillen III of Anchorage; and two sisters, Sandra Kovaleski of Covington, Kentucky and Mary Jo Harger of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sons, Kevin John and James McMillen.

Memorial services were held in Anchorage.

David Myers

ROME CITY — David C. Myers, 76, of Rome City, died Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, at his residence.

He was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on Sept. 11, 1932, the son of Ferris C. "Chief" and Evangeline "Bing" (O'Connor) Myers.

Mr. Myers

Mr. Myers was educated in Dayton and Hamilton schools, and graduated from Hamilton High School in 1951. Dave attended Indiana University, and was a 1955 graduate of Miami University. He was an active member of Sigma Chi fraternity, as were his father, brother and two sons.

While a member of the Hamilton High School football team, Dave was proud of the fact that in his junior and senior years he played all 60 minutes of every game. He was also active in gymnastics, swimming and boxing.

Following college graduation, Mr. Myers married Patricia Eby on Sept. 17, 1955, in Dayton.

He spent four years in the military as a U.S. Marine jet pilot.

Most of his business career was spent in Industrial Sales in Orange, Calif., and Chicago, Ill. Mr. Myers and his family returned to Sylvan Lake, Rome City, to a family home where he had spent all of his summers.

Dave was involved in many Rome City activities and the Rome City Lions Club. Boating, Swimming and fishing were his favorite past times on Sylvan Lake. He was a reliable friend with a strong sense of humor and many interests. He was an authority on Sylvan Lake and its past history. David has served 40 years as a board member of the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association.

He was a member of St. Gaspar Catholic Church in Rome City.

In June 1996, Dave married Susan (Cummins) Vaaler in Hamilton, Ohio, and they divided their time between Hamilton and Rome City.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Myers; two sons and daughters-in-law, Christopher C. and Jeannie Myers, Auburn, and Daniel P. and Paula Myers of San Jose, Calif.; three daughters and two sons-in-law, KevinAnne Kitchen of Glen Rock, N.J., Jennifer G. and Frode Larsen, Tinton Falls, N.J., and Dina A. and Dr. David L. Holliday, Rome City; three stepchildren and their spouses, Scott and Stephanie Vaaler, Glendale, Ohio, Eric and Suzanne Vaaler, Arnold, Md., and Arnne and Craig Mills, Hamilton, Ohio; nine grandchildren, David Carson Myers II, Mary Rose Myers, Brittany Rose Kitchen, Carson Taylor Michaeli Myers, Reese McAllister Corbington Myers, Michael Patrick Larsen, Daniel Andreas Larsen, Lucas Michael Holliday and Logan James Holliday; seven stepgrandchildren; and a sister, Patricia Weber, Walloon Lake, Mich.

Preceding him in death were his parents and two brothers, Col. Joseph Myers and Michael Myers.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Gaspar Catholic Church with Fr. Bernard Ramenaden officiating. Burial will be in St. Gaspar Catholic Cemetery. Honorary casketbearers will be Frode Larsen and Dr. David Holliday. Active casketbearers will be Christopher Myers, Daniel Myers, David C. Myers II, Lucas Holliday, Logan Holliday and Michael Larsen.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9, Wolcottville, and one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association.

View a video tribute and send condolences online to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Warren Middaugh

AUBURN — Warren E. Middaugh, 97, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at his residence.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, Auburn, with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be one hour before services and from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Henry Shirley

AUBURN — Henry L. "Hank" Shirley, 95, of Auburn, died Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, at Lakeland Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Angola.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in 6 Corners Cemetery, Hicksville, Ohio.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home with military graveside services conducted by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Memorials are to the Disabled American Veterans or Cameron Memorial Hospice.

Owen Eckert

WATERLOO — Owen D. Eckert, 81, of Waterloo, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Eckert

He was born Feb. 2, 1927, on the Eckert Homestead in Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, to Granville J. and Charlotte Elizabeth "Beth" (Bonbrake) Eckert. They preceded him in death.

He was owner and operator of Eckert's Jewelry in Auburn for 64 years. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during World War II from 1945-1946.

He married Carma-Jean Patee on June 11, 1950, in Waterloo. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Dennis and Laura Eckert, and Dalen and Debra Eckert, all of Auburn; two brothers, Wayne Eckert, Kendallville, and Eugene Eckert, Waterloo; a grandson and his spouse, Justin and Rachel Marie Eckert; a granddaughter, Rachel Nicole Eckert; and two step great grandsons.

A brother, Louis Eckert, and a sister, Mary Clingan, preceded him in death.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with Revs. Steve Eckert and William Lepley officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn. Military graveside services will be conducted by American Legion Post 97, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association or St. John's United Church of Christ in Ashley.

Ronald Claxton

BUTLER — Ronald L. Claxton, 74, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

He worked for 201/2 years for Ingersall Rand and then at Highlers Foundry in Mishawaka before retiring in 1996.

Mr. Claxton was a U.S. Navy veteran serving during the Korean conflict. He was a member of Butler American Legion Post 202 and the Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville.

On July 28, 1934, in Mishawaka, he was born to Clarence and Mary Claxton. He married Evelyn C. Gfeller on June 22, 1990. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are two stepdaughters and their spouses, Linda and Jacob Baird, Butler, and Darlene and Karl Mavis, St. Joe; a stepson and his companion, Robert E. Lee and Jamie Scalf, Butler; 14 step grandchildren; and 11 step great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were a stepson, George Lee, a brother in infancy and his parents.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Fr. David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Graveside services with military honors will be conducted by Butler American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Stanley Parrett

GARRETT — Stanley D. Parrett, 54, of Garrett, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

On March 22, 1954, he was born in Warsaw to Bill and Donna (Wolfe) Parrett. He married Cheryl Shipe on June 28, 1980, in Lakeside Park, Fort Wayne. She survives.

Also surviving are: a son, Daniel Parrett, Garrett; two daughters and sons-in-law, Angie and Jeremy Rhodes, Auburn, and April and Gabe Picklesimer, Kendallville; a brother, Tom Parrett, Albion; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Teresa Jarnagin, Auburn, and Lori and Matt Ambrose, Albion; and a step-grandson.

His parents and stepfather, Bob Parsons, preceded him in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with Rev. Brad Hardesty officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren.

Margaret Drerup

SPENCERVILLE — A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville for Margaret J. Drerup.

Mrs. Drerup, 90, died Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

Mary Feller

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, ARK. — Mary E. Feller, 79, of Hot Springs Village, Ark., died Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, at the Arkansas Hospice.

She was the branch manager at Knisley National Bank in St. Joe, Ind., for 26 years before retiring in 1989.

On July 2, 1929, in Waterloo, Ind., she was born to William and Goldie (Lowery) Miser.

Surviving are: her husband, Robert Feller, Hot Springs Village, Ark.; a son and daughter-in-law, Steven and Shannon Beatty, Spring, Texas a daughter, Cindy Torosian, St. Petersburg, Fla.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Dorothy and Roger Laub, Fort Wayne, Gloria Wetstone, Hamilton; two grandchildren, Michael Beatty, Spring, Texas, and Angela Gray, Dallas, Texas; and a great grandson, Jacob Beatty, Spring, Texas.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Harry Gorrell

AUBURN — Harry L. Gorrell, 74, of Flora, Ill., formerly of Auburn, died Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Gorrell

Mr. Gorrell retired as a letter carrier from the Auburn Post Office. He also worked as an agriculture scout for Ag Seed Feed and Fertilizer and as a custodian for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Mr. Gorrell was a member of the Masonic Lodge and the American Legion, both in Flora, and served as president of the Residents Council at Heritage Woods where he had resided the past few years.

He was a Korean War Army veteran.

He was born on July 23, 1934, in Auburn to Harry and Amy J. (Gump) Gorrell.

Surviving are three sons, David P. Gorrell of Youngstown, Ohio, Daniel L. Gorrell of Marshall, Ill., and Douglas L. Gorrell of Xenia, Ill.; two daughters, Deborah J. Graham of Flora, Ill., and Julia A. Gorrell of Fort Wayne; and 12 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three wives, Carol J. (Buchanan) Gorrell, Marilyn (Berning) Gorrell and Judith (Conaway) Gorrell.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1 in Spencerville with the Rev. Robert Craig of First Christian Church in Auburn officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service on Tuesday. Memorials are to Heritage Woods of Flora Music Fund or to Gideons International.

Dennis Cutler

GARRETT — Dennis G. Cutler, 62, of Garrett died at 3:19 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Cutler had been a bolt maker at Nucor Fastener in St. Joe for more than 20 years. He also farmed.

He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Cutler was a member of the Garrett American Legion.

He was born Nov, 7, 1945 in Garrett to Forrest M. "Bud" and Deloris D. (Clanin) Cutler. He married Cheryl A. Raymond on Dec. 1, 1978, in Auburn and she survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a daughter, Rheannen (Cutler) Jacko of Garrett; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Joe and Amy Cutler of Hoagland and Tony Cutler of Garrett; a granddaughter, Lela Cutler of Hoagland; and a sister, Nadine Cook of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Military honors will take place following the service by the Garrett American Legion and VFW. Memorials may be given to the donor's choice.

To send an online condolence or sign the online register book visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Warren Middaugh

AUBURN — Warren E. Middaugh, 97, of Auburn died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Middaugh was a farmer and rancher.

Mr. Middaugh

He spent his winters in Donna, Texas.

Mr. Middaugh had been a member of the DeKalb County Fair Board for more than 40 years and had served as its president and vice-president.

He was also a member of the DeKalb County Soil Conservation District, AARP, Moose Lodge No. 569, Avion Travel Club and the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

He was born in Douglas, Wyo., to Harry B. and Bernice (Adams) Middaugh.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Stephen "Carman" and (LuAnn) Middaugh of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and (William) Middleton of Middlebury; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Harry Middaugh in 1968; a brother; and four sisters.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Monday.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

Man with a clean reputation

Tom Dunn took pride in work, pleasure in golf

BY LINDSAY WINSLOW BROWN
lindsayb@kpcnews.net

Tom Dunn is remembered by his family and friends as someone who didn't need an excuse to golf, loved to hunt and helped people without receiving pats on the back.

Mr. Dunn died unexpectedly Sept. 6 at the age of 56, most likely from a massive heart attack.

He grew up in Waterloo, the second in a line of four children. He graduated from DeKalb High School in 1970.

Every year at Christmastime, the family vacationed in Florida, his brother, Jim Dunn, remembers.

"I don't know how (our parents) afforded to do it," Jim Dunn said. "They'd pack all us kids in the car. Lots of great friends, great memories."

The brothers remained close into their adult life, sometimes working together, hunting and fishing on Lake Erie.

Jim and his brother started cleaning grocery stores late at night when they were in high school. Their brother-in-law, Clint Stephens, started them in the cleaning business.

Mr. Dunn owned A1 Janitorial and cleaned local businesses until his death. His son, Damian, now is overseeing the business.

"He was super, unbelievable," Jim Dunn said of his late brother's work ethic. "People at Rieke's, where he cleaned, still think the world of him. Everybody loved him, from the president of the company to the people on the floor."

Mr. Dunn's son, Damian, went to work with his dad while he was growing up.

"It was obvious, even from a young age, that dad took a lot of pride in what he was doing," Damian said. "You couldn't count the number of times he double-checked his work."

Damian remembers going to Greenhurst Country Club before school and drinking chocolate milk while his dad worked to make the place shine. Not only did Mr. Dunn clean the main building at Greenhurst, he golfed at the club, served as president of its board of directors and

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tom Dunn, right, poses with his son, Damian, and daughter-in-law, Cassie, on their wedding day in 2003.

was club champion in 1977.

Damian often went golfing with his dad at Greenhurst. Mr. Dunn started teaching him to play golf when his son was 18 months old.

"I still have my first set of cut-downs," said Damian, who explained that his father cut the shafts on a set of adult clubs and put grips on them, so that he was able to play, too.

One of Damian's most cherished photos shows him riding on his dad's shoulders while his dad carries both of their golf bags on the course.

"Even up until as recently as this year, he would refer to me as his little boy, and that's just kind of how I pictured it," said Damian, referring to the photograph. "It's how he always felt."

When Damian's wife, Cassie, talked about her late father-in-law — she refers to him simply as "dad" — golf was one of the main topics of conversation.

"Damian and his dad taught me how to play golf," Cassie said. "I think that really pleased him. He went with me to help me pick out my first set of clubs."

When Mr. Dunn wasn't on the golf course or at work, he was hunting and fishing with his friends. When Bill Griffin of LaOtto moved to the area about 20 years ago, he immediately befriended Mr. Dunn.

"So, he walks in the office, and I don't know how, but we started talking about hunting almost immediately," Griffin said. The two had talked about hunting so much that they forgot to discuss any business.

"It was the beginning of our relationship. It expanded from there, and we enjoyed each other's company," Griffin said.

Griffin added that Tom Dunn often helped people without ever being asked.

"He'd help me out when he had plenty to do himself," Griffin said.

Tom Dunn lost a good friend several years ago. He gave his friend's wife, who had two young children, a "bunch of cash" to help her. "That was Tom," Griffin said.

Steve Barth, a friend and employee of Mr. Dunn, described him as a "good-hearted guy."

"He let me work up to the time I couldn't work anymore and helped me out so much," said Barth, who was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis.

"He was always a friend. He'll always be remembered forever in our hearts," Sandy Dillinger said of her friend. Tom Dunn often used to visit her restaurant, Sandra D's in Auburn. Dillinger's husband, Bentley, used to be the chef at Greenhurst, and now creates dishes at their restaurant.

When Damian Dunn and Cassie got engaged, Mr. Dunn told the two that "he got a daughter for Christmas."

"He never treated me like a daughter-in-law, and I never treated him like a father-in-law," she said.

Even before the pair were married, Mr. Dunn spent most of his holidays with Cassie's family in North Manchester. Cassie's grandfather gave the benediction at Mr. Dunn's funeral.

Asked what he missed the most about his dad, Damian said, "from a selfish standpoint, not having your dad there. I miss his phone calls, stories and advice, even though he didn't know he was giving it to me."

Kenneth Casey

AUBURN — Kenneth Darrel Casey, 70, of Auburn died Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Casey

Mr. Casey was an industrial arts teacher at East Side Junior-Senior High School in Butler.

He has served as head football coach at East Allen, Woodburn and Kokomo.

Mr. Casey had served on the school board at East Noble where he was also an industrial arts teacher. He retired from there in 1995.

A native of Bicknell, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana State University and a master's degree from the University of Saint Francis.

Surviving are his wife, Marcia Casey of Auburn; his mother, Peggie Casey of Oden; two daughters Cheryl (Chris) Ramsey and Jennifer (Aaron) Brayton, all of Kendallville; a son, Darrell W. Casey of Kendallville; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a stepson, Bruce Pullen of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth R. Casey.

Services will be at a later date.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to the Indiana State University Athletic Foundation.

THE EVENING STAR
November 2008 Auburn, Indiana
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Paul Reinoehl

ASHLEY — Paul E. Reinoehl, 83, died Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital, Kendallville.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren, Ashley. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Paul Reinoehl

ASHLEY — Paul E. "Sam" Reinoehl, 83, of Ashley died Sunday, November 9, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Reinoehl

Paul was born April 24, 1925, in Ashley, IN, to John and Effie (Hamman) Reinoehl. His parents have both passed on.

He was a lifetime Fairfield Township Farmer and operated his own Auctioneering Business. He was a member and Deacon of Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren. He was a member of the Ashley Grange. He served on the Ashley-Fairfield School Board before the consolidation with DeKalb Central Schools. He was a member for over 30 years of the Fairfield Cemetery Board, serving as president for many of those years.

On March 17, 1950, in Ashley he married Jean Shumaker and she survives. He is also survived by 3 sons and daughters-in-law, Sam and Sandy Reinoehl of Ashley, Mike and Karen Reinoehl of Ashley and Peter and D'Anna Reinoehl of Ashley; 2 daughters and sons-in-law, Sally and Terry Wilson of Waterloo and Cathy and Timothy Wells of Ashley; 2 brothers and a sister-in-law, John Reinoehl of Angola and Harold and Hilda Reinoehl of Auburn; 13 grandchildren, Joel Wilson, Nick Wilson, Heidi Wydock, Chris Wells, Derek Wells, Jeannette Kammermier, Matthew Reinoehl, Meagan Reinoehl, Andrea Reinoehl, Gabriel Reinoehl, Kaleb Reinoehl, Tucker Reinoehl and Parker Reinoehl; and two great-granddaughters, Jacie Wells and Emmily Kammermier.

Services are at 11 a.m. Wednesday Nov. 12, 2008, at Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren, Ashley. The Rev. Valarie Klein will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling is Tuesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, and one hour prior to services Wednesday at the church.

Memorials can be directed to the Church or Fairfield Cemetery.

Tamala Wood

GARRETT — Tamala Ann "Tami" Wood, 49, of Garrett died at 7:50 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Wood was the manager of the Circle K gas station in Garrett for 11 years.

She was born Feb. 4, 1959, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Norman W. and Vada R. (Bauer) Terrill. She married Charles E. "Junior" Wood Jr. on Feb. 20, 1988, in Garrett and he survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are two sons, Chad Richard Wood and Zachary Edward Wood, both of Garrett; her parents, Norman and Vada Terrill of Hicksville, Ohio; a brother, Terry Terrill of Hicksville; and two sisters, Lorrie Terrill and Lee Ann Blair, both of Hicksville.

Services will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with Pastor Lane Andrews officiating.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Chad and Zachary Wood.

Terry Reeves

BUTLER —Terry Lee Reeves, 65, of Butler died Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

He was born Nov. 17, 1942, in Oskaloosa, Fla., to Alfred and Geraldine (Seasholtz) Reeves. They are both deceased.

He worked at Pittsfield of Indiana in Hamilton, retiring in 2006.

He married Tanya Bush on September 2, 1999, in Auburn and she survives. He is also survived by a son, Tony Reeves of Bryan, Ohio; a daughter, Tami Reeves of Lake, Mich.; 4 grandchildren, Hailey Fry, Dennis Williams, Mallory Reeves and Marcus Reeves; a brother, Bill Reeves of Cecil, Ohio; and a sister, Barb Stafford of Hicksville, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Tracy Marie Reeves, and a sister, Carolyn Underwood.

A Memorial Service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Calling will be 1 hour prior to the service from 1 to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

Lewis Worman

ALBION — Lewis H. Worman, 81, of Albion died Sunday at North Ridge Village, Albion.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Albion, with burial in Cedar Creek Cemetery in DeKalb County at a later date.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Frurip-May Funeral Home, LaGrange, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Clare Grubb

AUBURN — Clare Eugene "Gene" Grubb, 85, lifelong resident of Auburn, died Monday evening, November 10, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne after a long illness.

Mr. Grubb

Mr. Grubb was born in DeKalb County to (William) Clare Grubb and Ruth (Markins) Grubb on March 26, 1923. He married Dorothy Obendorf on July 6, 1943, in Dyersburg, Tennessee, while in the Air Force.

During WWII he served in Northern Africa and Italy, working as an airplane technician. After the war, Mr. Grubb rejoined his father in the family business, Grubb Electric Service, which he owned and ran after the death of his father. The business later became Grubb Machine Shop Inc.

He loved his work as a machinist and tool and die maker, manufacturing specialty parts for local businesses and private individuals. He enjoyed helping others with all sorts of projects.

Over the years the focus of his interest in airplanes shifted to building and flying model planes and he was a long time member of the DeKalb Flying Model Club.

He was fond of music, especially classical, big band, and Christian music.

Family vacations were usually spent at the lake, boating, fishing, and fixing everyone's tangled lines.

Survivors include, daughter Ann Grubb of Auburn; granddaughter, April Grubb of Auburn; daughter-in-law, Martha Grubb of Butler; sisters-in-law, Ruby Gruver of Edgerton, Ohio, Helen Whitman of Auburn and Ruth Obendorf of Butler; brothers-in-law and spouses, Robert and Marilee Obendorf of Auburn, Allen "Pat" and Marilyn Obendorf of Montpelier, Ohio, and Richard and Danielle Obendorf of Butler; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Virginia Copland; his wife of 56 years Dorothy; a son, Larry Grubb; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Frank and Ethel (Green) Obendorf; three brothers-in-law, James Copland, Don Gruver, Russell Obendorf; and one sister-in-law, Sharon Obendorf.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Pastor Kevin Marsh will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be today from 6-8 p.m., Thursday from 2-8 p.m., and one hour prior to the service on Friday, all at the funeral home.

Memorial may be directed to DeKalb Flying Model Club.

Robert Wilmot

FORT WAYNE — Robert Wilmot, 61, of Fort Wayne died Monday, Nov. 10, 2008, at Byron Health Center in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Wilmot was born Oct. 19, 1947, in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Wilmot

Surviving are his mother, Ruth Wilmot of Auburn; a brother, Carl A. Wilmot; and two nephews, Jason Radke and Shaun Beiswanger.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Fay.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at C.M. Sloan and Sons Funeral Home, 1327 N. Wells St., Fort Wayne, with John Scott officiating. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be two hours prior to services.

Memorials are to Auburn Church of Christ, 208 W. 18th St., Auburn, IN 46706.

Lewis Worman

ALBION — Retired teacher Lewis H. Worman, 81, of Albion died Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008, at North Ridge Village in Albion.

Mr. Worman moved from West Lafayette to Albion in 1951.

He retired from the Central Noble School Corp. in Albion in 1989 where he had taught vocational agriculture since 1951.

Mr. Worman was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Albion and a United States Army veteran serving in World War II.

He was born on March 29, 1927, in DeKalb County to Terry A. and Perlie (Hoffman) Worman. He married Janice V. Bragg in Auburn on May 28, 1949. She survives in Albion.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Christine and Kenneth Davis of Leesville, S.C., and Jennifer and Douglas Gaff of Albion; four sons and daughters-in-law, Timothy and Rose Worman of Wolcottville, Paul and Kim Worman and Matthew and Mary Worman, all of Albion, and Andrew and Jane Worman of Dunnellon, Fla.; 14 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Richard Worman of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and three sisters.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Albion with the Rev. Thelma Megill-Cobbler officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in DeKalb County at a later date.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

Donald Eck

CORUNNA — Donald Eugene Eck, 68, of Corunna died Monday, Nov. 10, 2008, in Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mr. Eck

Mr. Eck had worked at Newnam Foundry in Kendallville, and retired from Dana Epic in Kendallville.

He was a member of the Kendallville Eagles Lodge.

He was born Oct. 15, 1940, in Armstrong County, Pa., to William Herbert and Lucille Esther (Brumbaugh) Eck.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Kimberly and David Wilfong of Anaheim, Calif., Teresa Eck of LaOtto and Donna Eck of Anaheim, Calif.; a son, David Hoag, address unknown; a stepson, Michael Treesh of Hudson; 14 grandchildren; three sisters, Shirley and Jim Boarts of Pennsylvania, Bunny and Jim McGinnis of Pennsylvania and Jan Hancock; and two brothers, Jim and Rose Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania and Walter Treesh; and his caregiver, Linda Delong, of Corunna.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a granddaughter, Michelle Cayot.

Graveside services will be at 9 a.m. Saturday at Corunna Cemetery in Corunna with Pastor James Archambeault of New Life Tabernacle in Kendallville officiating.

There will be no calling.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Maria Placencia

GARRETT — Maria G. Placencia, 86, of Garrett died at 2:58 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008 at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

She was born May 24, 1922 in Austin, Texas to Catarino and Geronima (Robledo) Garcia. They preceded her in death.

Mrs. Placencia was a Garrett resident since 1955 and worked in assembly for Garrett Flexible for 10 years.

Mrs. Placencia

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and the Rosary Society.

Surviving are six sons, Ed Placencia and Rick Placencia, both of Garrett, John Placencia of Surprise, Ariz.; Arnie Placencia of Auburn, Dave Placencia of Bakersfield, Calif., and Gene Placencia of Ridgecrest, Calif.; five daughters, Sue Hardenbrook, Catherine Placencia and Emma Placencia, all of Garrett, Mary Ann Petre of Waterloo and Alice Placencia of Everett, Wash.; 37 grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Ray Placencia; a daughter, Rosa Placencia; a granddaughter, Shawn Placencia; and five brothers and four sisters.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008 at St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery of Garrett.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, 2008 at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Soup Kitchen, St. Joseph Catholic Church or Masses.

To send a condolence or to sign an online register book, visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Donald Eck

CORUNNA — Donald Eugene Eck, 68, of Corunna died Monday, Nov. 10, 2008, in Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mr. Eck had worked at Newnam Foundry in Kendallville, and retired from Dana Epic in Kendallville.

Mr. Eck

He was a member of the Kendallville Eagles Lodge.

He was born Oct. 15, 1940, in Armstrong County, Pa., to William Herbert and Lucille Esther (Brumbaugh) Eck.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Kimberly and David Wilfong of Anaheim, Calif., Teresa Eck of LaOtto and Donna Eck of Anaheim, Calif.; a son, David Hoag, address unknown; a stepson, Michael Treesh of Hudson; 14 grandchildren; two sisters, Shirley and Rick Boarts of Pennsylvania and Bunny and Jim McGinnis of Pennsylvania; a sister-in-law, Jan Hancock of Ashley; a brother, Jim and Rose Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania; a brother-in-law, Walter Treesh of Auburn; and his caregiver, Linda Delong of Corunna.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a granddaughter, Michelle Cayot.

Graveside services will be at 9 a.m. Saturday at Corunna Cemetery in Corunna with Pastor James Archambeault of New Life Tabernacle in Kendallville officiating.

There will be no calling hours.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Pearl Kimpel

EDGERTON, Ohio — Pearl Ellen Kimpel, 93, of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 2 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Lakeland, Fla., where she was a patient.

Mrs. Kimpel

Mrs. Kimpel was a retired postal worker.

She attended Life Changing Realities Fellowship in Edgerton, was a charter member of the Edgerton Historical Society, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Edgerton Garden Club.

Mrs. Kimpel was a longtime Sunday school teacher at the Edgerton Church of Christ and was the leader of a children's Bible club in Edgerton for many years.

She was born Sept. 21, 1915, in Edgerton, Ohio, to Cyrus and Minnie (Turner) Rosenberry. She married Lester Lavon Kimpel on Dec. 31, 1934, in Butler, Ind., and he preceded her in death on Jan. 22, 1994.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Denver and Connie Kimpel of Auburn, Ind.; a daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Darwin Krill of Edgerton, Ohio; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one brother, Wayne Rosenberry, of Orange, Calif.

Also preceding her in death were a son, Richard Kimpel; a brother, Leonard Rosenberry; and a sister, Helen Johnson.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Life Changing Realities Fellowship in Edgerton with Pastor Byron Adams officiating. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday in the Krill Funeral Home in Edgerton.

Memorials are to Community Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Ohio or to Life Changing Realities Fellowship Benevolent Fund.

Condolences may be sent to and the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

Stephen Friend

HAMILTON — Stephen A. Friend, 58, of Hamilton died Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mr. Friend

Mr. Friend was born on April 1, 1950, in Auburn, Ind., to Richard W. and Rosann (Swihart) Friend. He was a 1968 graduate of Hamilton High School. He married Jacquelene M. Teegardin on March 8, 1969, at Hamilton, Ind.

Steve was a machinist for Auburn Gear for 35 years.

He was a loving husband, father and a friend to many. He was a comedian and a jack-of-all-trades in his own right. He will be missed by all and loved always.

Surviving are his wife, Jackie of Hamilton; four daughters, Jennifer L. (John) Gael of Auburn, Ind., Heather L. (Chad) Harshbarger of South Whitley, Ind., Danielle M. (Tom) Evertts of Hamilton, Ind., and Brianna M. Friend of Angola, Ind.; three grandchildren, Michael, Jessilyn and Jaimelee; his parents, Richard and Rosann Friend of Hamilton, Ind.; two brothers, Jim (Ann) Friend of Garrett, Ind., and Tom (Julie) Friend of Pleasant Lake, Ind.; and one sister, Linda Bireley and her companion Kevin of Hamilton, Ind.

Funeral services for Stephen A. Friend will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 17, 2008, in the Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home & Crematory, 3985 E. Church St., Hamilton, Ind., with Pastor David Leitzel officiating. Private interment will be made in Teegardin Cemetery, Hamilton. Visitation for Mr. Friend will be held on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008. from 2-4 and 6–8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorial contributions in the name of Stephen A. Friend may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent to the family or the online guest register may be signed at www.oberlin-ford.com.

Eugene Harrold

BOURBON — Eugene L. "Stretch" Harrold, 75, of Bourbon and formerly of Waterloo died Thursday, November 13, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Harrold worked in the body shop at Maxton Motors in Butler and then for Boman and Albright in Waterloo, Ind.

He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was a member of the Cedar Creek Antique Tractor Club and enjoyed taking part in many tractor pulls and working on his tractor.

He was born on June 17, 1933, in Allen County, Ind., to Alva and Marjorie (Whistler) Harrold. They both preceded him in death. He married Lura Lee Van Wye on November 25, 1960, in the Jerusalem Church in Butler, and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Gina Blackstone of Brentwood, Calif., and Gail and Tim Downing of Etna Green, Ind.; one son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Stacey Harrold of Burnsville, Minn.; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Mary Ann Drees of Fort Wayne, Louise and Robert Dorsey of Fort Wayne, and Elaine Conner of Charleston, S.C.; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Robert Harrold of Butler, Ind., and Larry and Sharon Harrold of Butler; and five grandchildren, Hannah, Jackson, and Quinn Marie Downing, Alex and Adam Harrold.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery, Hamilton.

Calling will be Monday from 2–4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Riley Children's Hospital.

William Schimpf

WATERLOO — William E. "Butch" Schimpf, 56, died Friday, November 14, 2008, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Schimpf

He was born February 1, 1953, in Garrett to William R and Mary L. (George) Schimpf. They have both passed away.

Mr. Schimpf was a painter at Prince Manufacturing in Waterloo and he was a NASCAR fan, Steelers fan and loved to fish.

He married Sharon Fifer on February 19, 2008, in Auburn and she survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Shasta Schimpf of Waterloo; a son, Spencer Schimpf at home; two stepchildren, Linda Wilson and Frankie Wilson, both at home; a sister and brother-in-law, Jolene and Timothy Kaiser of Butler; two brothers and a sister-in-law, David L. Schimpf of St. Lucie, Fla., and Noah and Bridgett Schimpf of Auburn; and his first wife, Deb Schimpf of Waterloo.

Services will be 3 p.m. Monday, November 17, 2008, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling is Monday from 1 to 3 at the funeral home.

Memorials in lieu of flowers can be directed to the family.

Oscar Sanders

ANGOLA — Oscar E. Sanders, 87, of Angola died Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mr. Sanders was a lifelong farmer and also worked for Bramalls Inc. in Angola for 17 years, retiring in 2001.

He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during World War II.

He was a member of American Legion Post 423 of Orland, Land of Lakes Lions Club in Angola, and the Tri-County Pony Pullers.

He was born June 20, 1921, in Hamilton to Kenneth and Elva (Little) Sanders. He married Helen M. Derrow on Aug. 31, 1946, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Ken Sanders of Hudson, Richard Sanders of Fort Wayne and Michael Sanders of Kentucky; two daughters, Judy Warstler of Pleasant Lake and Linda Willms of Orland; two brothers, Roland Sanders of Hamilton and Maynard Sanders of Ashley; three sisters, Anna Mae Platt of Hudson, Phyllis Drozda of Grant Park, Ill., and Sharon Graham of Pleasant Lake; 14 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Harold Sanders and Cletus Sanders; and one sister, Laura Jones.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Al Black will officiate. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, Orland. Graveside military services will be conducted by the American Legion Post 423, Orland.

Calling will be Sunday from 2–6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Alzheimer's Association.

Tony Romero was always on track

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Phillip "Tony" Romero was a man who loved his country, his family and his model trains.

Romero, who died Oct. 28, worked as an electrician in the area for a number of years, for himself and later for Clear Lake Electric. His former wife, Jeanne Romero, said he wouldn't hesitate to help someone in need.

"We'd always get a call on a holiday from someone who needed help," Jeanne said. "He would not hesitate to help anyone at anytime." Romero's son, Dan, said he saw that first hand only a few years ago at his home in Florida.

"If you needed something built, he would build it," Dan said. After mentioning to his father that he and his wife were going to put a fence around their home, Dan said he returned from work the next day to find the fence posts dug and concrete poured.

"He was the get-it-done guy," Dan said of his father, who also acted a counselor of sorts for family members. "If a family member was having a problem or something, they could always always go to him," Dan said. "He was like a guidance counselor for the whole family. He was your go-to-guy if you had a question."

Tony, an Army veteran, was active with the American Legion in Angola. Jeanne and daughter Diane Clift both remember him as a true patriot.

"The biggest thing I remember about him was his patriotism and his love of country, which he instilled in us from a young age," Clift said. "He would play 'Taps' for military funerals. A lot of mornings, he would wake us up playing 'Reveille' or a John Phillip Sousa song. He was about honoring those who serve and having a great love to serve. That's something I've really tried to pass on to my kids."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Phillip "Tony" Romero, far right, was remembered by family members and friends as a loving, patriotic man who was always willing to help others. With him in this photo are daughter Diane (Romero) Clift, former wife Jean Romero, left, son Daniel Romero and son David Romero, now deceased.

Tony's former employer, Bill Geiger, said he was extremely knowledgeable.

"He was very knowledgeable, and very accomplished," Geiger said. "He was very good working with people."

Tony was also known for his love of model trains. Dan said his father could identify most trains on sight and give a detailed rundown of the statistics related to the engine. Gene Weicht of Angola grew up with Tony, and both shared a love of trains throughout their lives.

"He was an avid model-railroader," Weicht said. When the first H0 gauge trains came out, Weicht said, the two of them would spend a lot of their time putting them together.

"There was very little interest in those at the time they came out," Weicht said. "You had to actually put them together in a kit. Then when you laid your track out, you'd build little buildings and other things. We helped each other work back and forth on it." Weicht said Romero had three tracks, two H0 gauge tracks and a Lionel track, which largely consumed the basement of his house.

Adah Stouder

AUBURN — Adah D. Stouder, 90, of Auburn, died Friday, Nov. 14, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Stouder was born Sept. 22, 1918, in Beulah, Mich., to Harry H. Schlegel and Clara A. Prosch. She married Earl Stouder on June 15, 1935, in Auburn. He died in 1982.

Mrs. Stouder

She was a 1934 graduate of Beulah High School. She worked as a secretary at Warner Gear for 32 years, retiring in 1981.

She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, where she was a member of the choir, and participated in social ministries and Stephen's Ministries. She enjoyed singing, loved flowers and dancing. She was a very giving person.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, William and Jane Stouder of Littleton, Colo.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Jeanenne and Norman Wood of Fort Wayne, and Sharenne Rachel of Auburn; 11 grandchildren, Robin Stouder of Minneapolis, Richard Young of Garrett, Lisa Smith, Jeffery Wood of Arizona, Michael Stouder, Joseph, Brian, David and Peter Stouder of Colorado, Jennifer Stouder of Colorado, and Jessica Stouder of Colorado; and six great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers and seven sisters.

Services will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home in Auburn, as well as an hour prior to the service at the church.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Larry Swander

ALBION — Larry G. Swander, 66, of Albion, died Nov. 12, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Swander was born Feb. 11, 1942, in Garrett to Artha and Orla (Derrow) Swander.

He was employed for several years with Noble County Disposal. His hobbies in his younger years were fishing and hunting, and he also enjoyed going to the races with his son, Matt. He was a lifelong resident of Albion.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Matthew "Matt" and Lisa Swander of Kendallville; two brothers, Fred Swander of Albion and Richard Swander of Fremont; and three sisters, Lois Wert of Kendallville, Connie of Kendallville and Carolyn of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; twin granddaughters, Hannah and Hailey Swander; and one brother.

Graveside services will be today at 11 a.m. in Rose Hill Cemetery in Albion. A funeral meal will follow at the Bread of Life Tabernacle in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the Bread of Life Tabernacle in Kendallville or the Avilla Fire Department for fire prevention.

The Brazzell Funeral Home of Albion are in charge of arrangements.

Janet Oleynik

AUBURN — Janet M. Oleynik, 79, of Auburn died Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008.

Memorial services will be Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church. Calling will be Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Memorials are to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Dr. William Carter

AUBURN — Dr. William Dean Carter, 76, of Auburn died Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008, at his home.

Dr. Carter graduated as salutatorian of the class of 1950 from Edison High School in Gary where he lettered in baseball, football and basketball.

Dr. Carter

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1954 from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. He then earned his medical degree from Indiana University Medical School in 1958.

Dr. Carter began a family practice in Walkerton in 1959 and practiced there for 23 years. He then began teaching family practice residents at Memorial Hospital in South Bend in 1982 and continued as associate director of the program until his retirement in 1999.

He was a member of Koontz Lake Missionary Church in Walkerton. He served many years on the St. Joe County Board of Health. He served as president of LaPorte Hospital Board of Directors when the new hospital was built in the early '70s. He was president of the Polk, Lincoln, Johnson School Corp. when it consolidated and built the John Glenn High School in Walkerton.

Dr. Carter was born June 2, 1932, in Ohio County, Ky., to Remus and Lorena (Bozarth) Carter. He married Wilda Elizabeth Olson on Sept. 4, 1954, in Hobart, and she survives.

Also surviving are three daughters and two son-in-laws, Laura and Dr. Philip Chase of Auburn, Lynn and Dr. Randall Millikan of Bellaire, Texas, and Susan Adams of South Bend; a sister and brother-in-law, Jane and George Stimple of DeMotte; and 15 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Sara Carter, who died in infancy; and a grandson, Johnny Chase.

Services will be at noon Friday at Koontz Lake Missionary Church in Walkerton with the Rev. Brian Baughman officiating. Burial will be in Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville.

Calling will be two hour prior to the service Friday at the church.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Grabill Missionary Church with the Rev. William Lepley officiating. Calling will follow the service.

Memorials are to Koontz Lake Missionary Church, 8044 N. S.R. 23, Walkerton, IN 46574.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Seth Shumaker Jr.

ASHLEY — Seth Max Shumaker Jr. 50, of Ashley died Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008, at St. Joe Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Shumaker was a TV receptionist and producer for WINM TV 63 in Edgerton, Ohio.

He attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

He was born Aug. 2, 1958, in Auburn to Seth Max Sr. and Betty Joann (Wilhelm) Shumaker.

Surviving are two sisters, Donna Shumaker and Susan Shumaker, both of Ashley; a brother, Robert Shumaker of Ashley; and three nieces, Samantha Bertsch, Stacy Nicole Wilson and Jamie Lynn Shumaker.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Sammy Shumaker.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service Wednesday.

Memorials are to the family.

Janet Olenyik

AUBURN — Janet M. Olenyik, 79, of Auburn died Sunday, November 16, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Olenyik, a homemaker, formerly lived in Newton, N.C. She moved to Auburn in 2006 to be near her daughter and family.

Mrs. Olenyik

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, where she was active in the Priscilla Women's Circle. She volunteered at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program's food pantry.

She enjoyed her Silver Sneakers and yoga classes at the YMCA. Her hobbies included painting, cooking and entertaining friends.

She was born September 2, 1929, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Roy and Minnie (Larkin) Rogers. They preceded her in death.

She married Robert J. Olenyik in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 11, 1950. He preceded her in death on October 28, 2006, in Auburn.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Dr. Douglas Morrow of Auburn; one son and daughter-in-law, John R. and Marcie Olenyik of Torrington, Wyoming; six grandchildren, Matthew, James, Andrew and Nathan Morrow, Chris Olenyik and his wife Tamara, Kelly Olenyik, and one step-grandchild, Thomas Flores.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Roy Rogers Jr., and one sister, Grace LaMear.

A memorial service will be Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church with Mrs. Olenyik's son, the Rev. John R. Olenyik, officiating.

Calling will be Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Camilla Shilling

SPENCERVILLE — Camilla D. Shilling, 69, of Spencerville died Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was born July 13, 1939 in Peru, Ind., to Meriville and Martha (Overman) Douglass and they have both passed away.

Mrs. Shilling

She was an extension agent in Allen County for 26 years, CEO of Have a Healthy Baby Program through Purdue University, worked at the Post Office in Spencerville and co-managed with her husband, Jim, the Classic City Horseshoe Club for 25 years.

She was valedictorian of Converse High School class of 1957. She earned her master's degree from Purdue University in 1962.

She was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church where she served as a Ley Delegate to the annual conference for many years. She also held many positions in the United Methodist Women North Indiana Conference.

She was a member of Herb Gardner's in Fort Wayne and a 40-year member of National Home Extension. She was a professional judge of food and nutrition at county fairs. A member of National Horseshoe Pitchers Association Indiana Hall of Fame. She received national recognition for promoting NHPA and received Director of the Year award for NHPA in 1993. She was a NHPA national distributor for NHPA items.

She enjoyed traveling and working alongside her husband Jim for many years.

She married Jim Shilling on August 12, 1982, at Forest Park United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne and he survives.

She is also survived by a daughter, Sandra Bazini of Lakeville, Ind.; 2 stepsons and their wives, Ed and Pat Shilling of Spencerville and Donald and Karen Shilling of St. Joe; 2 brothers, Elliott Douglass of Greentown and Wayne Douglass of Boulder, Colo.;. a sister, Judy Hill of Valico, Fla.; and 2 stepgrandchildren, Mindy Georgi and Tricia Lovett.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son-in-law, Jim Bazini.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, November 22, 2008, at Auburn First United Methodist Church, Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn and also 1 hour prior to the service at the church Saturday.

Memorials can be directed to the church.

Delores Nichols

Mrs. Nichols

WATERLOO — Delores L. Nichols, 74, of Waterloo, died Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was born October 14, 1934, in Butler to Otha and Beulah (Morrow) Pinney. They have both passed away.

She worked in the cafeteria at McKinney Harrison School in Auburn for 25 years retiring in the late '80s.

She enjoyed her grandchildren, gardening and traveling.

She married Thomas Nichols in June of 1951 in Auburn and he survives.

She is also survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Shirley Kay and Frank Hatina of Hamilton; 5 grandchildren, Rachelle Stafford, Allen Eddy, Tammy Nichols, Amanda Jackson and Nathan Nichols; a brother and sister-in-law, Dennis and Laurie Pinney of Auburn; and a sister, Darlene Stump of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Roger Nichols; and 4 brothers, Robert, Donald, Richard and Jerry Pinney.

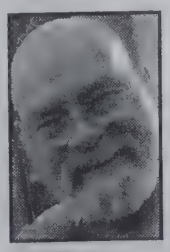
There will be no visitation.

A private family service will take place Saturday afternoon November 20, 2008, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

The family asks that memorials be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Edgell Terry

ROME CITY — Edgell Terry, 63, of Rome City died Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008, at 5:27 a.m. in Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn., after a two-year illness.


Mr. Terry

Mr. Terry was retired from Dana in Fort Wayne where he was a journeyman welder. After retirement he worked in research and design for Storm Archery in Auburn. He was an inventor and held several patents.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, having served in Vietnam.

Mr. Terry was a member of the International Bowhunters Organization, the ASA, and United Auto Workers.

He was born Feb. 11, 1945, in Kentucky to Shelby and Helen (Sawyer) Terry. He married Londa Earhart on Dec. 31, 1988 in Rome City. She survives in Rome City.

Also surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Dawn and John Drewey of New Haven, Kathy and Greg Everage of LaGrange and Bianca Terry, at home; a son, Alan Terry of Monroeville; a stepdaughter, Sally and Razvan Nistor of Rome City; two stepsons, Richard Woodin of Battle Creek, Mich., and Robert and Lisa Woodin of Mountain Home, Idaho; 22 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four sisters, Maudie Criswell of Kendallville, Shelbia Jean Millhouse of Albion, Ruby Gayheart of Wolcottville and Jo Ann Haston of LaGrange; five brothers, Elmer Terry of Hunter Lake, Ind., Bufford "Deke" Terry of Kendallville, Roy Terry of Wolcottville, Shelby Terry Jr. of Wolcottville and Glenn Terry of LaGrange.

He was preceded in death by his father, Shelby Terry; his mother, Helen Gibson; his stepfather, John Gibson; a brother, Randall Terry; and a sister, Mavis Terry.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9 North, Wolcottville. Burial will be in Brushy Chapel Cemetery. Military graveside services will be provided by Rome City American Legion Post 381 and Kendallville VFW Post 2749.

Calling will be from 1-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home, and two hours prior to the service on Monday.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Thomas Ludy

WATERLOO — Thomas J. Ludy, 63, died Friday, Nov. 21, 2008, at his home in rural Waterloo.

Mr. Ludy was a self-employed truck driver contracting with Ashley Transport for 45 years.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran.

He was born June 1, 1945, in Geneva to Elmer and Lela M. (McGue) Ludy. He married Emma L. Colpeart on Oct. 10, 1969, in Decatur. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Patrick A. and Heather Ludy of Spencerville; a stepdaughter and her husband, Lori A. and Billy Abbott of Angola; two sisters, Judy Grogg of Delphos, Ohio, and Janet Fleming of Devils Lake, N.D.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, John and Freida Ludy of Fremont and Bill and Marilyn Peters of Van Wert, Ohio; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death his parents; a brother, Don Keller; a brother-in-law, Jerry Grogg; and three grandchildren.

A memorial services will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, at 5 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

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Betty Strouse gave to those in need

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — When we think of the Friendship Food Pantry, we think of her, too.

When gathering food for needy Kendallville area families, we think of her.

When the pantry's shelves were bare, she was on the phone pleading for donations or contacting the media asking for publicity about the pantry's need for food to help hungry families.

The community responded because of Betty Strouse. For her civic-mindedness, she was named Kendallville's Citizen of the Year in 2001 by the Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce.

"If heaven has any hungry souls, you can be sure that Betty will find them and set up a food pantry," said Friendship Food Pantry board of directors president Bob Smith.

Betty Lucile Strouse, 87, of Kendallville, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne. She had served as the volunteer director of the Friendship Food Pantry since 1987.

Mrs. Strouse served as treasurer at the Kendallville Day Care Center for 19 years, and had been a member of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville since 1942 where she was a charter member of the Dorcas Circle.

"She had a deep faith, and came faithfully to the Sunday Night Live Bible Study," said Trinity Church United Methodist Pastor Scott Pattison. "She was a person who exemplified what it was to be grandma, to be a citizen, to be a Christian giving self to God and others."

The Rev. Dr. Dan Barker, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Albion, who helps manage the Common Grace charity in the same building as the Friendship Food Pantry, describes Mrs. Strouse as a great humanitarian. "To family, church and community, she was a model of compassionate care," he said.

Hundreds, if not thousands of families throughout eastern Noble County have been sustained and spared the effects of hunger since the pantry opened more than 20 years ago thanks to Mrs. Strouse, said Barker. "Throughout the years she recruited a strong, dedicated volunteer staff to help allocate resources," he said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Betty Strouse, center, was named Kendallville's Citizen of the Year in 2001. Here she accepts the honor from Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce president Tom Leedy. Her late husband, Russel "Bud" Strouse, is shown with his wife.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and food donations have been received and distributed to the needy because of her work at the food pantry.

Mrs. Strouse was one of those persons you knew would always be there to help and make a difference, commented Pattison.

"She knew how to bring the best qualities out of people," said Smith. He was moved by her care and treatment of the people who came to the food pantry for help. "Betty was an octogenarian whose heart was as big as the sky and whose faith in God always led her to believe that each person who needed help had great dignity."

Pattison remembered how Mrs. Strouse refused to allow herself to get old. He recalled the time he commented to her about her new eyeglasses. "She told me she thought she should get something a little snazzy with pop."

Smith recalled watching her move heavy boxes of canned food at the pantry. "More than once I would tell Betty not to lift that heavy case of food, but she would go ahead and do it, saying, Now don't you worry." Just days before she passed away, Mrs. Strouse was at the food pantry joining volunteers in shelving donated food items and attending a board meeting.

"There is no expression that adequately conveys the meaning of Betty's dedication to people who have looked to her, not only for nutritional strength, but also for spiritual discernment," said Barker. "We will be long blessed by her acts of faith that grew out of genuine concern and care."

She leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Carson and Tawnya Strouse of Wawaka; a daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Neil Trim of Gibsonville, N.C.; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Food pantry volunteers carry on her legacy.

Memorials are to the Friendship Food Pantry or the American Cancer Society.

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Bill Harrah

AUBURN — Bill Harrah, 78, of Auburn died at home Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008.

He was born in Chicago on April 9, 1930, to Harold O. and Beulah M. (Roberts) Harrah, and they have both passed away.

Mr. Harrah

He was director of manufacturing at Magnavox, working there 27 years before retiring in 1994. After his retirement he worked part-time until about 3 weeks ago at Fire Protection in Auburn. He was a member of Cedar Creek Golf Club and the American Legion in Leo.

He married Mel Burget on Nov. 20, 1970, in Garrett and she survives. He is also survived by four sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Jeanette Sturges of Garrett, James and Joanne Sturges of Fort Wayne, Thomas and Nancy Sturges of Garrett and Mike and Pam Harrah of Fort Wayne; three daughters and a son-in-law, Susan Sturges of Auburn, Rhonda and Fred Ramsey of Avilla and Kelly LaFontaine of Fort Wayne; 22 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. The Rev. David Snodderly will officiate. Burial in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Visitation is Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to the family.

Roger Delbecq

WATERLOO — Roger Alan Delbecq, 46, of Waterloo died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, in a construction accident.

He was a construction worker for Monarch Development Inc. in Albion.

He was born June 19, 1962, in Lima, Ohio, to Harry and Loretta (Rosebrock) Delbecq. His father survives in Rushville.

Also surviving are six sisters and three brothers-in-law, Diane and Charlie Trapp of Wolcottville, Elaine Delbecq and Jim Knapp of Indianapolis, Debra Delbecq of Rushville, Darlene Delbecq of Indianapolis, Karen and Daniel McInerny of Indianapolis and Brenda Delbecq of Indianapolis; three nieces, five nephews and two great-nephews.

His mother preceded him in death in 1977.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, in rural Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Thomas Delagrange

WATERLOO — Thomas G. Delagrange, 63, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, in Waterloo.

He was born June 21, 1945, in Fort Wayne, to Clarence and Mary (Fine) Delagrange. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are his wife, Sandy (Getty) Delagrange of Waterloo; two sons, Chad Delagrange of Waterloo and Andrew Delagrange of Auburn; one daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Adam Brinkhoff of Bremen; and one grandchild, Gerrit Brinkhoff.

Private family services will be Friday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Dorothy Pfeiffer

GARRETT — Dorothy R. Pfeiffer, 85, a lifelong resident of Garrett, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, at Regency Place, Fort Wayne.

Born in Garrett, she was a homemaker and a former board member of Alliance Industries. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting and knitting and loved her family.

Mrs. Pfeiffer

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and Dewey Tagtmeyer of Fort Wayne; a son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Debbie Pfeiffer of Garrett; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John D. Pfeiffer in 1994; and a son, Jerry L. Pfeiffer in 2008.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Alliance Industries of Garrett.

Evelyn Armstrong

HAMILTON — Evelyn J. Armstrong, age 79, of Hamilton died at 8:29 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008, in her home after a 23-month battle with ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease. She was surrounded by her three loving sons and many family members as she joined Earl, her husband of 57 years, in heaven.

Mrs. Armstrong was a graduate of Montpelier (Ohio) High School, a 1955 graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and received her Master's Degree from Ball State University.

She was a devoted pastor's wife, serving alongside her husband for 51 years in the ministry. She was currently a member of the California United Presbyterian Church in California, Mich., where she and her husband had served for 36 years. She was an elementary school teacher, serving Hudson, Farmland and Hamilton school systems, retiring with 25 years of service, of which 19 were in the Hamilton school system.

She was past president of Delta Kappa Gamma women's professional teachers association from 1978-1980.

Mrs. Armstrong was born on Sept. 4, 1929, in West Jefferson, Ohio, the daughter of Andrew and Flossie (Gordon) Moore. She married Earl Armstrong on July 5, 1949, in Montpelier, Ohio, and he preceded her in death on Dec. 28, 2006.

Mrs. Armstrong is survived by three sons, Jerry (Helen) Armstrong, of Waterloo, Lynn (Jing) Armstrong, of Fishers, and Lyle (Jayne) Armstrong, of Angola; 12 grandchildren, Matt Armstrong, Lori Wiedenhoeft, Mandy Shepherd, Nathan Armstrong, Stephanie Witham, Travis Armstrong, Scott Armstrong, Seth Armstrong, Melissa, Shannon and Patrick Armstrong; 12 great-grandchildren; a sister, Carol (Dale) Hamman, of Hamilton; and two brothers, Raymond (Aileen) Moore, of Columbia, Ohio, and Robert (Joy) Moore, of Clean Lake.

Services will be on Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edon, Ohio, with Pastor Norm Fuller officiating. Burial will follow in Columbia Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 3-8 p.m.

Memorials are to Cameron Hospital Hospice Program in Angola.

Condolences may be sent to and the online register signed at krillfuneralservice.com.

Marguerite Eddingfield

WATERLOO — Marguerite Eddingfield, 88, of Waterloo died Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008, at Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester.

Mrs. Eddingfield

Mrs. Eddingfield was a homemaker. She was a member of Barker's Chapel United Methodist Church of rural Waterloo and belonged to the church's Women's Society.

She was born Feb. 5, 1920, in Huntington to John and Eva M. (Brubaker) Burns. They both preceded her in death.

She married C. Dale Eddingfield on Feb. 18, 1939, in Marion. He passed away on Oct. 13, 2004.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Tim D. and Sherry Eddingfield of Troy, Ohio; three daughters and one son-in-law, Cherry V. Eddingfield of Angola, Jean A. Eddingfield of Waterloo and Joyce and Richard Lehman of Silver Lake; five grandchildren, Chris Eddingfield, Tina Holiday, J. Gordon Lehman, Robert Lehman and Brandy Parrot; and five great-grandchildren, Catlin Helmuth, Doug Holiday, Drew Holiday, Savanna Parrot and Dillon Holiday.

She was preceded in death by 11 sisters and one brother.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875. S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Rick Pettys will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Barker's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Mina Batterson

ANGOLA — Mina Christina Batterson, 91, of Angola and formerly of Auburn died Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008, at Cameron Hospital in Angola.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of Christ, 208 W. Eighteenth St., Auburn, IN 46706.

Real cowboy helped build local fair

BY DAVE KURTZ
dkurtz@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — DeKalb County will remember Warren Middaugh as the namesake of Middaugh Hall on the DeKalb County Fairgrounds.

His children remember him as a horseman and farmer who could fascinate them with stories of his younger days in the untamed West.

Mr. Middaugh died Nov. 5 at the age of 97 in his farm home south of Auburn, where he had lived for more than 60 years.

Mr. Middaugh

He was born in Wyoming, on a ranch 82 miles from the nearest town, said his son, Stephen, of Auburn.

Middaugh's father and grandfather had moved from Pennsylvania to Wyoming to drill oil for the Standard Oil Co. His father became a successful sheep and cattle rancher.

Middaugh's wife, Blanche, taught in one-room and ranch schools. Descendants of the famous Hole in the Wall Gang were among her students. Warren met her while she was teaching his younger sisters.

Middaugh's father died at an early age and his mother, a native of Kendallville, moved back to Indiana to live with her brother, near Butler.

When the Great Depression and drought made ranching a struggle, Warren and Blanche Middaugh joined his family in Indiana, settling on a farm east of Auburn around 1940.

Around 1945, they bought farmland south of Auburn from the Rieke family and made it their home for the rest of their lives. They raised dairy cattle, then sheep and finally feeder cattle. A herd that started with less than a dozen Angus and Hereford cattle grew to more than 100.

The Middaughs had brought ranch horses with them from Wyoming, and soon began dominating horse shows over a wide region.

"They didn't have any idea what a real working horse was," Stephen Middaugh said of his parents' Midwest competitors. "There wasn't anybody who could touch them."

Warren Middaugh rode Pat, a big bay horse.

"I don't know if I was named after the horse or the horse was named after me. We both came about the same time," said Patricia Middleton, Middaugh's daughter.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Warren Middaugh won horse show trophies throughout a wide region in the 1940s riding his agile, ranch-trained cutting horse, Pat.

Blanche Middaugh rode Clipper, another cutting horse, so called for the ability to "cut" a single steer out of a herd with agile movements.

"You just sat on the horse, and by the touch of your spurs that horse would turn, and you didn't have to rein him or anything. You had to have a smart horse," Stephen Middaugh said.

Warren Middaugh's love of horses led to involvement in the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair. He served on the fair board 40 years and led the organization as its president for seven years.

"After the war (World War II), the fair was pretty near dead," Stephen Middaugh said. His father and several of his horse enthusiast friends worked to revive it.

Stephen Middaugh said his father's talent for listening to people helped him pull rival factions of the fair together and pool their resources for a common purpose.

"It was never profitable until Dad took over," Steve said of the fair. "Instead of having to borrow so much money every year to put the thing on, they had money in the bank."

He vividly remembers watching fair board members count rental income from carnival operators on Warren Middaugh's dining room table. The cash amounted to six figures, much of it in coins.

The fair's profits helped pay for Middaugh Hall, a handsome building on Union Street that houses many community events.

After the new hall was built, someone said, "Why don't we name it after the person who made it possible?" Steve Middaugh recalled.

Warren Middaugh's involvement in the fair finally ended at the insistence of Blanche.

"She got tired of him spending every waking minute up there," Stephen Middaugh said.

The Middaughs instead spent their later years traveling in their streamlined Avion trailer and passed their winters in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Even in his 90s, Warren Middaugh maintained a sharp recall of his Wyoming days, his children said.

Stephen Middaugh said his father told them it wasn't unusual to ride 100 miles a day on a horse. Sometimes they would ride that far to attend a dance, then ride home the next day.

Patricia Middleton now wishes she had made recordings of her father's stories about the real West.

"You're never going to hear that kind of stuff again," she said.

Michael Shopp

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Michael Allen Shopp, 27, of Lexington, Ky. and formerly of Waterloo died Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo. Burial will take place in Waterloo Cemetery. Graveside military services will be conducted by the U.S. Air Force and the Avilla American Legion.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to USO (United Service Organizations).

Jeremy Cox

BUTLER — Jermey D. "Jerry" Cox, 53, of Butler died Friday Nov. 28, 2008, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Services will be Tuesday at 3 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, with Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, Butler.

Calling will be from 1 - 3 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Michael Shopp

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Michael Allen Shopp, 27, of Lexington, Ky., and formerly of Waterloo died Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington from complications due to a motorcycle accident.

He was a graduate of DeKalb High School, graduating in 2000. He then graduated from Purdue University with an Aeronautical Technology degree.

Mr. Shopp

He was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, serving from February of 2005 to September of 2007.

He was a receiving manager for Amazon.com in Lexington, Kentucky, and also works for the Air Force Reserves at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

He was born July 23, 1981, in Tiffin, Ohio, to Timothy L. and Joyce A. (Hamman) Shopp. They survive in Waterloo.

He married Emily K. Kendall on Jan. 8, 2005, in Port Clinton, Ohio. She survives in Lexington.

Also surviving are one daughter, Kathleen J. Shopp of Lexington; three sisters and three brothers-in-law, Stacy and Steve Barry of Fort Wayne, Jennifer and Brandon Huth of Waterloo and Sarah and Pat Hefty of Austin, Texas; grandparents, Max and Doris Hamman of Ashley; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Robert and Joyce Gray of Rocky River, Ohio; two sisters-in-law and spouses, Jennifer and Joseph Hudock of Lakewood, Ohio, and Stephanie and Lance Huber of Decorah, Iowa; one brother-in-law, Sgt. Jason Gray of Fort Bragg, N.C.; and nine nieces and nephews.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. David Mathews officiating. Burial will take place in Waterloo Cemetery. Graveside military services will be conducted by the U.S. Air Force and the Avilla American Legion.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to USO (United Service Organizations).

Albert Sockrider

AUBURN — Albert J. Sockrider, 92, of Auburn died Saturday, November 29, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

Mr. Sockrider was born in Auburn on October 2, 1916, to Dale and Grace (Mochamer) Sockrider.

He graduated from Auburn High School in 1934, after which he went on to attend Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Mr. Sockrider married Peg Owens on May 20, 1939, in Garrett, Indiana. Peg passed away on February 6, 1997.

He was the treasurer of the Garns Company in Auburn for 40-plus years, retiring in 1978.

He also served as the president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce during the 1980s.

Mr. Sockrider was an active member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church.

He loved to play golf and was an avid reader, however above all he liked to spend time with his family and grandchildren.

Survivors include a son, Bob and Jane Sockrider of Mukwonago, Wisconsin; three daughters, Meg and Stew Bloom of Grabill, Indiana, Beth and Chuck Smith of Auburn, Indiana, and Amy and Albert Weiler of Auburn, Indiana; nine grandchildren, Nate Sockrider, Matt Sockrider, Kate Bloom, Sam Bloom, Ellen Bloom, Jason Smith, Anna Smith, Molly Weiler and Emma Weiler; five great-grandchildren; and one brother, Donald and Isabella Sockrider of Payson, Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Peg Sockrider; his parents; a brother, George Sockrider; and a grandson.

A memorial tribute will be held Saturday, December 13, 2008, at the Auburn Inn, 225 Touring Drive, Auburn, Indiana, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made to Black Pine Animal Park in Albion.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

William Lambright

GARRETT — William L. "Tiny" Lambright, 58, of Garrett and formerly of Ligonier died at 7:26 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Thomas Cemetery, Goshen.

Memorials are to Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation, Syracuse.

Condolences may be sent online at millerstewartfuneralhome.com.

Karen Waldron

HAMILTON — Karen R. Waldron, 53, died Wednesday, December 3, 2008, at her home in Hamilton.

Mrs. Waldron was a homemaker.

She was member of the New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was a 1995 National Archery Champion. She loved to hunt and fish. She was also an outdoor sportsman and an avid animal lover.

She was born on May 22, 1955, in Fort Wayne to Harold and Charlene (Von Behren) Griffin. They survive in Waterloo.

She married Gary Waldron on February 24, 1984, in the Calvary Chapel Church in Waterloo.

Also surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Matt and Cassie Peckhart of Butler; one daughter and son-in-law, Jennie and Eric Rosswurm of Auburn; one stepson and his wife, Mike and Nichole Waldron of Butler; one stepdaughter and her husband, Shelly and Dana Gierhart of Auburn; her twin sister and her husband, Sharon and John Kuhlman of Waterloo; 11 grandchildren, Carissa and Emma Peckhart, Mackenzie, Dylan and Dawson Rosswurm, Trevor Waldron, Brody and Cameron Hitt, and Shana, Tiara and Jayden Gierhart.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery, Hamilton.

Calling will be Friday from 2–4 and 6–8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Kim Krauter

BUTLER — Kim A. Krauter, 48, of Butler died Monday, Dec. 1, 2008, at his home.

He was born Nov. 2, 1960, in New Haven.

His mother is Barb (Zollinger) Krauter of New Haven and his father and stepmother are Richard and Brenda Krauter, also of New Haven.

Mr. Krauter was a mechanic for Ben Davis Chevrolet Oldsmobile-Buick-Pontiac Inc.

He married Kimberly Kammerer on June 17, 2005, in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Tiffany and Ryan Fitzcharles of Auburn; a son, Calub Simon of Garrett; two grandchildren, Zoa and Nevaeh Fitzcharles; two sisters, Becky Benitez of California and Melanie Krauter of Michigan; one brother, Kevin Krauter of New Haven; four nieces; and two nephews.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with DV Dillinger officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Beatrice Sawicki

FORT WAYNE — Beatrice P. Sawicki, 90, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Ligonier died Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, at Hospice Home.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 10700 Aboite Center Road. Burial will be in Sparta Cemetery at Kimmell.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, with a rosary at 4:30 p.m. Additional calling will be one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to Second Chance Animal Hospital or Habitat for Humanity.

Michael Watson

MT. POCONO, Pa. — Former area educator and football coach Michael W. Watson, 61, of Mt. Pocono died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, at his home.

Mr. Watson

Mr. Watson was a history teacher at Pocono Mountain East High School, where he had served as freshman football coach in 2006.

He started his teaching and coaching career in Hamilton, Ind., in the early 1970s and had previously been head football coach at East Side High School in Butler, Ind. He had also served as assistant football coach in Mitchell, Ind.

Mr. Watson worked in sales at Transguard Seal Co. in Newark, N.J., from 1984 to 1989. He had also been employed as district manager at Connaught Labs and as regional account manager for 17 years there before returning to teaching.

He was a member of the Mt. Pocono Parks and Recreation and the Pocono Farms Country Club.

He was a United States Army veteran.

Mr. Watson earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

He was born in Lafayette, Ind., to Kenneth and Marian (Maynard) Watson. He married Robin Wike on June 10, 2006. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Nicole L. Watson and Danielle E. Watson, both of Tampa, Fla.; two stepdaughters, Kendall and Haylee of Mt. Pocono; two brothers, Mark Watson of Connersville, Ind., and Kevin Watson of Lutz, Fla.; and his first wife, Karen Lehman of Lakeview, Ohio.

A celebration of life service will be held at noon Saturday at the Bolock Funeral Home in Paradise Valley. Cremation will follow.

Calling will be from 4-6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations are to the Pocono Mountain East High School General Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 200, Swifwater, PA18370 or to the Purdue Foundation, 403 W. Wood St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007. Make checks are payable to the Purdue Foundation and note that the donation is in memory of Michael W. Vatson or visit www/purdue.edu/udo/giving /give.shtml.

Raymond Roby

BUTLER — Raymond Eugene "Gene" Roby, 57, of Butler died Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Gene was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, on Aug. 11, 1951. His parents have both passed away. His father was Norman E. Roby and his mother was Martha (Thomas) Roby Parks.

He worked at Covington Box in Waterloo and he loved racing and wrestling.

He is survived by his partner, Wanda Hamman of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Jamie and Lucas Clifford of Galena, Kan.; a son, Chad Roby of Michigan; a stepson and a stepdaughter, Jimmy Hicks of Moorehead, Ky., and Eva Moore of Corunna; three grandchildren, Madyson Clifford, Kyndra Clifford and Paycie Clifford; several stepgrandchildren; four brothers and two sisters-in-law, Edward "Tim" and Minnie McClain of Bellefontaine, Ohio, James Roby of Huntington, Calvin Roby of Defiance, Ohio, and John and Natasha Roby of Auburn; four sisters and brothers-in-law, Sandra and James Reid of Bryan, Ohio, Norma and Daniel Daniels of Arkansas, Edna and John Matthews of Cecil, Ohio, and Tammi and Chesney VanDyke of St. Joe; a sister-in-law, Cindy Shipp of Butler; a brother-in-law, Buddy Hicks of West Unity, Ohio, and his ex-wife, Donna Roby of Galena, Kan.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Robert McClain and Ronald McClain.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

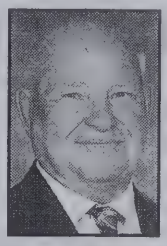
Calling is from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

THE EVENING STAR
December 6 2008 Auburn, Indiana

William Helfrich

COLUMBIA CITY — William O.V. Helfrich, 86, of Kendallville and formerly of Columbia City died at 6:20 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville where he had been a resident since October.



Mr. Helfrich

Mr. Helfrich operated Mobil Oil Co. in Columbia City from 1948 to 1966, the V&H Oil Co. from 1966 until 1971 and the Dairy Queen in Waterloo for nine years.

He had also lived in Montgomery, Ala., and Waterloo, North Manchester and Auburn in Indiana.

Mr. Helfrich graduated from Larwill High School and was inducted into the United States Army on Sept. 22, 1942. He served in the American Theater during World War II. He was honorably discharged on Jan. 24, 1946.

He was a member of Columbia City United Methodist Church and American Legion Post 98.

He was born Feb. 12, 1922, in Whitley County to Lyman Earl and Anna (Betzner) Helfrich. He married Betty J. Shook on Sept. 18, 1943. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Richard L. "Rick" and JoAnn Helfrich of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Carol Ann and Carlos Buckles of Columbia City and Linda J. "Lin" Helfrich of Auburn; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Frederick Gail Helfrich.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Smith & Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City. The burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery at Larwill.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent online to smithandsonsfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
December 7 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Personable Dodd loved to serve

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

SNOW LAKE — Virginia "Ginny" Dodd may have spent most of her life in South Florida, but friends and her husband, George Dodd, said her heart was in Steuben County and in serving people.

Dodd, 69, died Nov. 17, following a traffic accident on I-69.

Dodd moved to the area after marrying her husband in 1996.

"We knew each other through a good friend of mine from college and law school," George Dodd said. George was also married, and the couples were friends for many years. Things changed a bit in 1995, however. George was widowed and Ginger was divorced. "We happened to be the partners that kept in touch," George said. "I called to check on how she was rebuilding following Hurricane Andrew. The next thing I knew, she was telling me she would be visiting her son in Chicago. I said, 'Why don't we go to dinner?' We went out to dinner, and it turned out I ordered good wine and picked the right seafood. The next thing we knew we were more than just friends." Within a few months the two were married.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

George and Ginger Dodd met and became friends early in life. Only later, after George was widowed and Ginger divorced, did they come together. Ginger, who moved to Steuben County from South Florida, became a fixture on local boards and an important fundraiser.

Dodd, who had been a college placement counselor in Miami-Dade (Florida) schools, moved to Steuben County and threw herself into charitable work here. She served on fundraising boards or worked in fundraising efforts at the Breeden YMCA and Trine University, as well as serving as the secretary for the neighborhood association.

"It just seemed like wherever there was money, Ginger was always able to get at it for charities," friend Charlene Slagle said. Larry Slagle said Dodd always knew what she had to do to raise money.

"She was just the kind of person who'd ask you to to do something and before you knew it, you'd said yes. She was a very good organizer."

That organizational skill was put to good use, George said. Dodd was the executive director of the Northeast Indiana Arthritis Foundation for 10 years. The northeastern chapter of the state's organization was essentially dormant, George said, until Ginger Dodd took it on. "She built it up to the point where she was raising more in the state than all the other chapters combined. She was very committed to the notion of service," he said. Her efforts had been successful enough, George said, to get her appointed to a nationwide fundraising committee.

"She was constantly engaged," George said. "She just wanted to be active, and so she was."

The Slagles said much the same thing. The two couples traveled together often, with Dodd usually hearkening back to her former career as a travel agent.

"She organized many trips for us," Charlene Slagle said. "All you had to do was say where you wanted to go, and she'd have everything organized." Those trips, they said, were sometimes built around one theme.

"We'd plot our trips along Starbucks locations," Charlene said. Dodd was a big fan of the coffee chain, she said, usually stopping in every day and during pretty much every trip for a special-order coffee. Those special orders weren't just confined to java, the Slagles said.

"All the restaurants knew her, even in Fort Wayne," Charlene said. That was because, Larry said, she made a habit of ordering something and then picking it apart to make little adjustments, like ordering a pasta dish with vegetables and then ordering a different type of pasta with only one vegetable. Most of the time, he said, Dodd got her way with it because of her personality. "She did it in a way that was generally humorous," he said. Charlene described her as a good friend to have. "She was a very warm person," she said. "She would listen and never criticize. She would always check in if something happened." Larry said that ultimately, Ginger Dodd embraced the people of Steuben County.

"She was just a big-city girl who came here and just fell in love with it," Larry Slagle said.

Carrie Ames

AUBURN — Carrie P. Ames, 89, of Auburn died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

She was a sales clerk with Keltch Pharmacy for 19 years, a sales clerk for Romeiser for 13 years and was a sales clerk with Schaab's Department Store for four years.

A member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, she was also a Red Cross volunteer for 10 years and was a member of the Charm and Chatter Home Demonstration Club.

She was born Oct. 28, 1919, in Auburn. She was a graduate of McIntosh High School in 1937.

Her husband, Richard E. Ames, preceded her in death in December 1960.

Survivors include a daughter, Marsha J. Wilcoxson of Auburn; a brother, George W. Reeder of Lawrench, Mich.; a sister, Lois K. Collins, of Auburn; four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Also preceding her death were a daughter, Cheryl A. Sterling in 1997; and two sisters, Gertrude L. Smart and Lylla Reeder.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at McComb Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home in Auburn with pastor Stephen Kummernuss officiating.. Burial will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the Red Cross of DeKalb County or RISE Inc.

Shafter Baker I

AUBURN — Shafter Baker I, 71, of Auburn passed away at 3:50 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, with his family at his side at his residence.

Mr. Baker was a laborer for Auburn Artistices for four years. He served in the U.S. Army from 1963-1965.

He was born March 21, 1937, in Yerkes, Ky., to Finley and Lilly (Rice) Baker, who preceded him in death. On Jan. 10, 1962 he married Betty Rose McPherson, who survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Shafter and Kelly Baker II of Kendallville, Gene Baker and Dean and Rhonda Baker of St. Joe; two daughters and sons-in-law, Charlette and Luther Lingar of Altona and Nora and Duane Teeters of Auburn; a brother, Tensley Baker of Hamilton; a sister, Nora (Baker) Black of Hamilton; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

With his parents, he was also preceded in death by two brothers, Bob Asher and Jaspher Baker.

Services will be today at 1 p.m. at McComb Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, Auburn, with hospice chaplain Paul Marki officiating. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling was from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Rebecca Ridenour

WARREN — Rebecca Ann Ridenour, 84, of Warren died at 10:58 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was born on Thursday, Dec. 13, 1923, in Delaware County, Ind. Mrs. Ridenour was a 1941 graduate of Linlawn High School in Wabash and a member of the Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne. She received her nursing degree from Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie in 1945. She also received training as a nurse at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. She worked at Wabash County Hospital for five years, Lutheran Hospital-Fort Wayne for seven years and as a visiting nurse for one year in Fort Wayne. She had also worked at Turtle Creek Nursing Home in Fort Wayne for four years and retired in 1974.

Mrs. Ridenour

She was a volunteer in all church activities, the Girl Scouts and P.T.A., and was involved with youth activities at the church. Rebecca lived in Allen County most of her life before moving to Heritage Pointe in Warren on Oct. 3, 2006.

She married Philip Ridenour on March 12, 1945, in Indianapolis. She was the daughter of the late Waldo and Mildred (Fager) Shoemaker. Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law Sue and Larry Womack of Collegeville, Pa., and Janice and Hugh Taylor of Waterloo; four granddaughters and their husbands; one grandson; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by he husband, Philip Ridenour; father, Waldo Shoemaker; mother, Mildred (Fager) Shoemaker; and sister, Bonnie Lewis.

Visitation was Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, at the Heritage Pointe Chapel, 801 Huntington Ave., Warren. Funeral services were at Heritage Pointe at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, with Rev. Carol Schrope Scott officiating.

There was a graveside committal service at the Highland Park Cemetery, 2403 E. Wallen Road in Fort Wayne at 1 p.m. Monday with Rev. Dean Fager officiating. Interment will follow at Highland Park Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Preferred memorials are to the Heritage Pointe 801 Huntington Ave., Warren, IN 46792.

Arrangements are being handled by Glancy - H. Brown & Son Funeral Home, 203 N. Matilda St., Warren.

Condolences may be sent online to www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Scott LaTurner

GARRETT — Scott David LaTurner, 59, of Garrett, died at 6:50 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

The former Fort Wayne resident moved to Garrett 12 years ago.

Mr. LaTurner

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, serving on the USS John F. Kennedy.

Mr. LaTurner drove a delivery truck for C. Miller and Sons in Fort Wayne for 17 years and worked for the past year at Custer Grain in Garrett. He enjoyed golf, fishing and hunting.

Surviving are three brothers and sisters-in-law, Dan and Peggy LaTurner, Auburn, Sam and Janet LaTurner, Avilla, and Chuck and Lori LaTurner, Garrett; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Melba and Bert Hauge, Auburn, and Angie Smith, Garrett; and 11 nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with Pastor Glen Francis of St. Andrew Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Auburn, and Pastor Dean Morris of the Living Waters Church, Garrett, officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne, with military graveside services by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett American Legion Post 178 or to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent online to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Robert Kinsey

ST. JOE — Robert E. "Bob" Kinsey, 75, of St. Joe died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, at his residence.

Mr. Kinsey

Born in St. Joe to Glenn and Mary (Sheardy) Kinsey, he retired in 1992 from General Electric Company with 25 years of service.

He was a corporal in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and he was a member and Past Worthy President of Eagles Aerie 2256, Hicksville, Ohio, 1995-1997, Eagles 2733 in Butler, American Legion in Hicksville, Ohio, and V.F.W. in Antwerp, Ohio.

Bob lived his life the way he wanted, and he was a very giving and great friend to many. He will be greatly missed.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Mona E. and Jeff Lane, St. Joe; a son and daughter-in-law, Ken D. and Natalie Kinsey, Leo; five grandchildren, Amber Kinsey, Nashville, Tenn., Hunter and Shade Kinsey, Leo, Josh Warstler and Jada Warstler, both of Loveland, Ohio; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Jim and Barb Kinsey, Fort Wayne, and Larry "Gus" and Roseanne Kinsey, St. Joe; and a brother-in-law and his dog, Bill Myers of Garrett and Maggie.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Opal Myers, and a brother, Donald Kinsey.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Chaplain Heath Lisenby officiating. Burial will be at Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe, at a later date.

Mary Douglas

GARRETT — Mary Josephine Douglas, 91, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor, Garrett.

She was a lifelong resident of DeKalb County and employed at Reike Corp. for 28 years before retiring in 1982.

She was a homemaker after retiring and then moved to Miller's Merry Manor. She was a member of Lakewood Baptist Church, and the Women of the Moose in Auburn.

On Oct. 19, 1917, she was born to Alva M. and Orpha (Draggoo) Carper. She married Robert Douglas on April 2, 1942. He preceded her in death on April 28, 1978.

Surviving are a son, Dob Douglas, St. Croix of the Virgin Islands; a cousin, Larry Rittenhouse, Anderson; and longtime caregiver, Fannie Pepple, Auburn.

In addition to her husband, a sister, Marselle Martin, and a brother, Lloyd Carper, preceded her in death.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with Pastor Clare Jewel of Lakewood Park Baptist Church officiating.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Evangelism Fellowship or to the donor's choice.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Calling will be one hour prior to services and from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Humane Society or Fort Wayne D.A.V. Van Fund.

Bruce McCoy

AUBURN — Bruce D. McCoy, 57, of Auburn died at 4:45 a.m. Sunday at his residence.

He formerly worked at Amcast Auto in Fremont, and was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, and former a member of the Pleasant Lake Fire Department.

On March 22, 1951, he was born to Daniel and Jennie (Carr) McCoy in Decatur. He married Kathy Johnson on May 21, 1997. She survives.

Also surviving are his mother, Jennie McCoy, Monroeville; a son, Daniel A. McCoy, New Haven; a sister, Pam Johnson, Decatur; and a grandchild, Mackinzie McCoy.

His father, a son, David S. Johnson, and a brother, Tim McCoy, preceded him in death.

Memorial graveside services will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the family.

Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to Johnson@bnin.net.

Leora Daniels

BUTLER — Leora Ruth Daniels, 77, of Butler died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Newville.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or Relay for Life of DeKalb County.

Leora Daniels

BUTLER — Leora Ruth Daniels, 77, of Butler died Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at Laurel of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler after a short battle with cancer. She passed away peacefully with her children and family members by her bedside.

Mrs. Daniels

Mrs. Daniels was born Nov. 1, 1931, to Earnest Walter Raymond Brandau and Alvina Victoria (Gajewski) Brandau. She was born near Norwalk, Wisconsin, at the Gajewski family farm.

She married Wallace Carroll Daniels in Norwalk, Wis., on October 21, 1950. He preceded her in death on May 19, 2002.

She was raised on the family farm and attended a one-room school house from grades first through eighth and then attended and graduated from Sparta High School in Sparta, Wis.

Leora was a loving and devoted mother to 13 children. She spent the majority of her life raising and caring for children. She was an avid reader and the family historian. She was very talented and always busy making precious items for family and friends with her hands. She looked forward to the fair each year, so she could enter items that she had made. She won many awards with her hand knitted mittens and her crochet dollies. This year she received a champion, reserve champion and three blue ribbons to add to her collection of past ribbons.

Leora's other hobbies included sewing, cooking, canning and gardening. She was always thinking of others and her home was always full and known for its large dinners and holiday family get togethers. She was a friend to everyone she met and loved by all.

She was a member of the Newville Church of Christ in Newville.

She is survived by one brother, Byron Brandau of Sparta, Wis., and one sister, Dorthy Waterman of LaCross, Wis.; nine sons and daughters-in-law, Wallace and Teri Daniels of Paulding, Ohio, Danny Daniels of Jackson, Mo., Ronald and Lois Daniels of Hicksville, Ohio, Gary and Linda Daniels of Butler, Lee and Anita Daniels of Hicksville, Ohio, Martin and Ruth Daniels of Saint Joe, James and Dianna Daniels of Auburn, Jeffrey Daniels of Butler and David and Kim Daniels of Edgerton, Ohio; four daughters and sons-in-law, Jeanne and Dennis Kline of Butler, Sheryl and James Lockhart of Butler, Gloria and Jessie Bard of Butler and Joyce and Mike King of Butler; 39 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Hazel Brandau, Ardith Sletten and Eunice Dowiin; three grandsons, Bradley Lockhart, Robert Daniels and Cory Hankey; a great-grandson, Conner Daniels; and a great-great-granddaughter, Heather Dix.

Funeral services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler with Pastor Darrin Langford officiating. Burial will be in the Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or Relay for Life of DeKalb County.

Mary Douglas

GARRETT — Mary Josephine Douglas, 91, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor, Garrett.

She was a lifelong resident of DeKalb County and employed at Reike Corp. for 28 years before retiring in 1982.

She was a homemaker after retiring and then moved to Miller's Merry Manor. She was a member of Lakewood Baptist Church, and the Women of the Moose in Auburn.

On Oct. 19, 1917, she was born to Alva M. and Orpha (Draggoo) Carper. She married Robert Douglas on April 2, 1942. He preceded her in death on April 28, 1978.

Surviving are a son, Bob Douglas, St. Croix of the Virgin Islands; a cousin, Larry Rittenhouse, Anderson; and longtime caregiver, Fannie Pepple, Auburn.

In addition to her husband, a sister, Marselle Martin, and a brother, Lloyd Carper, preceded her in death.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. today at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with Pastor Clare Jewel of Lakewood Park Baptist Church officiating.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Evangelism Fellowship or to the donor's choice.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Leora Daniels

BUTLER — Leora Ruth Daniels, 77, of Butler died Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at Laurel of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler after a short battle with cancer. She passed away peacefully with her children and family members by her bedside.

Mrs. Daniels was born Nov. 1, 1931, to Earnest Walter Raymond Brandau and Alvina Victoria (Gajewski) Brandau. She was born near Norwalk, Wisconsin, at the Gajewski family farm.

She married Wallace Carroll Daniels in Norwalk, Wis., on October 21, 1950. He preceded her in death on May 19, 2002.

She was raised on the family farm and attended a one-room school house from grades first through eighth and then attended and graduated from Sparta High School in Sparta, Wis.

Leora was a loving and devoted mother to 13 children. She spent the majority of her life raising and caring for children. She was an avid reader and the family historian. She was very talented and always busy making precious items for family and friends with her hands. She looked forward to the fair each year, so she could enter items that she had made. She won many awards with her hand knitted mittens and her crochet dollies. This year she received a champion, reserve champion and three blue ribbons to add to her collection of past ribbons.

Leora's other hobbies included sewing, cooking, canning and gardening. She was always thinking of others and her home was always full and known for its large dinners and holiday family get togethers. She was a friend to everyone she met and loved by all.

Mrs. Daniels

She was a member of the Newville Church of Christ in Newville.

She is survived by one brother, Byron Brandau of Sparta, Wis., and one sister, Dorthy Waterman of LaCross, Wis.; nine sons and daughters-in-law, Wallace and Teri Daniels of Paulding, Ohio, Danny Daniels of Jackson, Mo., Ronald and Lois Daniels of Hicksville, Ohio, Gary and Linda Daniels of Butler, Lee and Anita Daniels of Hicksville, Ohio, Martin and Ruth Daniels of Saint Joe, James and Dianna Daniels of Auburn, Jeffrey Daniels of Butler and David and Kim Daniels of Edgerton, Ohio; four daughters and sons-in-law, Jeanne and Dennis Kline of Butler, Sheryl and James Lockhart of Butler, Gloria and Jessie Bard of Butler and Joyce and Mike King of Butler; 39 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Hazel Brandau, Ardith Sletten and Eunice Dowin; three grandsons, Bradley Lockhart, Robert Daniels and Cory Hankey; a great-grandson, Conner Daniels; and a granddaughter, Heather Dix.

Funeral services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler with Pastor Darrin Langford officiating. Burial will be in the Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or Relay for Life of DeKalb County.

Linda Fell

SPENCERVILLE — Linda L. Fell, 66, of Spencerville died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Fell had been employed with Foley Pattern for 12 years, retiring in 2007.

She was born in Casey County, Ky., to Rosco and Myrtle Linsey Renfrow.

Surviving her husband, John Fell of Spencerville; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Edward R. and Mary Fell of Spencerville, William J. Fell of Garrett and Charles F. and Rebecca Fell of Spencerville; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; four brothers, Richard, Oscar and Clint, all of Auburn, and Leon Renfrow of Butler; and two sisters, Laura Harris of Georgia and Mary "Buggy" Watson of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Kevin; three brothers, Raymond, Harden and James; and two sisters, Martina Fell and Dorothy Renfrow.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Bill Lyne officiating. Burial will be in Leo Memorial Cemetery at Leo-Cedarville.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Wilbur Diehl

BUTLER — Wilbur O. Diehl, 84, died Friday, Dec. 12, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Diehl was a letter carrier for the Butler Post Office, retiring Jan. 16, 1981, after 35 years of service.

He dropped out of high school to join the U.S. Navy during World War II. He served in the defenses of Attu Island, Alaska, and later in the cleanup of the South Pacific, where he piloted an LCT between Guam, Saipan and Tinian. After the war he returned to Butler and graduated in 1950.

Mr. Diehl

Mr. Diehl had been a member of the VFW since 1944 and Butler American Legion since 1947 where he served as commander in 1970. He was the last surviving charter member of the Butler Eagles. He also served as an assistant Boy Scout leader and was a member of New Hope Christian Center.

He was born on Oct. 3, 1924, in Butler to James G. and Lana (Dirrim) Diehl. He married Joyce Cook on June 1, 1946, in St. Joe. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Pastor Ralph and Anita Diehl of Waterloo and Thomas and Darlene Diehl of Butler; four daughters and sons-in-law, Nancy and Mike Mickelson of Stryker, Ohio, Diana and Rex Bartlett of Marysville, Wash., Penny and Bob Slone of Auburn and Pamela and Dave Helton of Auburn; 22 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, James and Marion Diehl; a sister, Colista Gnagy; his parents; and two grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at New Hope Christian Center at Waterloo with Pastor Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery with military honors by American Legion Post 202 of Butler.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, and one hour prior to the funeral at the church. A Fraternal Order of Eagles memorial service will be held Monday at 7:45 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to New Hope Christian Center.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
December 14 2008

Lorna DeLong

AUBURN — Lorna P. DeLong, 84, of Auburn, died Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. DeLong was a member of the Indian Village Church of God and also the Friendship Club.

She worked in the cafeteria at the Waterloo schools for seven years. She then became a beauty operator for over 20 years working for Pat's Beauty Salon in Waterloo and Mary's Beauty Salon in Auburn.

She was a very kind, loving, generous woman her whole life. She was an avid reader. She always had a smile.

She was born on May 18, 1924, in DeKalb County to Albert A. and Haidee (Krontz) Houser. They preceded her in death. She married Kenneth E. DeLong on Feb. 24, 1968, at the Waterloo United Methodist Church. He preceded her in death on Sept. 13, 2000.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Pamela Jo Dove, Auburn, Rose Anne and Kerry Chorpenning, Hudson, and Ginger and Mike Greer, Auburn; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Janet and Harland Smith, Angola, and Mary and Roger Morrison, Auburn; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Harrold and Bea Houser, Phoenix, Ariz., Maurice and Amy Houser, Pleasant Lake, and Larry and Shirley Houser, Hamilton; five grandchildren and spouses, Kerry Thomas, Kristin and Rob Holiday, Brad and Jamie Chorpenning, Scott and Deidri Greer, and Robyn and Brad Close; and 12 great grandchildren, Olivia and Kennedy Thomas, Rylie and Reed Holiday, Evan and Vanessa Chorpenning, Colton, Kendall and Kenna Close, and Kaden, Logan and Madison Greer.

In addition to her parents and husband, a brother, Linford Houser, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Raymond Warner officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Indian Village Church of God.

Anna Cook

AUBURN — Anna P. Cook, 85, died Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008, at Dupont Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Cook worked for 39 years for GTE as a phone operator, retiring in 1962. She was a member of Souls Harbor Assembly of God in Auburn.

Mrs. Cook

She was born Feb. 3, 1923, in Stainville, Tenn., to Charles and Liza (Phillips) Phillips.

She married Dallas DeWayne Cook in June of 1943 in Covington, Ky., and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis G. Cook Sr. and Vicki Cook of Leo; six grandchildren and spouses, Deb and Doug Frane of Auburn, Dennis G. Cook Jr. of Auburn, Dee and Ben Adams of Fort Wayne, Thano Genos of Maryland, Amanda Cook of Indianapolis and Alissa Cook of Bloomington; seven great-grandchildren; and a sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn and Paul Buckles of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by brothers and sisters.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Souls Harbor Assembly of God, Auburn, with Pastor David Snodderly officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Newville.

Calling will be Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, and Friday one hour prior to services at the church .

Memorials are to Souls Harbor Assembly of God, P.O. Box 704, Auburn, IN 46706.

Katherine Decker

AUBURN — Katherine Marcele Decker, 90, of Auburn, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Decker was a homemaker. She was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn and the DorCas Circle of the church.

She was born in Auburn on March 7, 1918, to Worthington Ray and Goldie Mae (Kristofferson) Smith.

She married William O. Decker on March 1, 1941, in Auburn and he survives.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Norman Decker of Churubusco, Raymond and Bonnie Decker of Auburn and Wayne and Michelle Decker of Auburn; one daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Robert Schmidt of Bremen; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Lela and Charles Allen of Anderson, Mary Ellen and Harold McInturf of Sun City, Ariz., and Shelba and Jim Shuff of Garrett; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Blake Smith of Auburn, Warren and Martha Smith of Auburn and Don and Nancy Smith of Auburn; six grandchildren, Stephanie Duncan, Tracy Decker, Courtney Bollenbacher, Brent Schmidt, Amanda Wilson and Stephen Decker; and three great-grandchildren, Alex Duncan, Hannah Decker and Reagan Bollenbacher.

She was preceded in death by a son, Edward Lynn Decker; a sister, Effie Mahlum; and three brothers, John Delmar Smith, Dale Smith, and Edgar Smith.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Carroll McNutt officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Indian Village Church of God or a charity of the donor's choice.

Roszella Slaughter

AUBURN — Roszella M. Slaughter, 71, of Auburn died Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, at Wesley Healthcare, Auburn.

Mrs. Slaughter was born in Garrett on Feb. 26, 1937, to LeRoy and Cora (Zolman) Rottger.

Surviving are a daughter, Christina Skinner of Camden, Ark.; two sons, Kenneth and Stanley Cripe, both of Homer, La.; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a brother, Harold Rottger of Auburn; and two sisters, Joan Lillo of Warren, Ohio, and Shirley Wyatt of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Blaine Cripe; four brothers, Melvin Winebrenner and Robert, Harry and Frank Rottger; and a sister, Gladys Jackson.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville. Burial will be in the Cedar Creek Cemetery, rural Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left at hitefuneralhome.com.

Pearl Days

WATERLOO — Pearl Clara Days, 85, of Waterloo died Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Days worked at Universal Tool and Die in Butler for 20 years before retiring in 1985. After retirement she worked part-time at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo and St. Anne's Study Club of the church.

She was born Feb. 3, 1923, in Columbia City to Tony and Stella (Hartman) Miller.

She married Max Days on Dec. 27, 1947, in Fort Wayne, and he died Feb. 22, 1988.

Surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Tom and Mary Helen Days of Corunna, Jim and Karen Days of Ashley, Dave Days of Corunna and Doug and Karla Days of Angola; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Jane and Chuck Moore of Fort Wayne, Susie Gulick and Mark Darnell of Ashley and Julie and Breck Farver of Waterloo; 20 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and seven sisters, Charlotte Perlich, Betty Parmeter, Doris Peters, Dorothy Buckmeyer, Marilee Tresch, Marilin Ulshaffer and LaVonne Chalk.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three grandsons, Mathew Days, Daniel Days and Brett Gulick; a sister, Rosemary Kerch; and a brother, Bernard Miller.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father Dave Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Friday one hour prior to services at the church. A rosary service will take place Thursday at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Masses at the church.

Paula Coombs

NEW HAVEN — Paula Coombs, 60, of New Haven, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, at her home.

Mrs. Coombs worked as a caregiver for the elderly. She was a member of the Auburn Lions Club.

She was born March 7, 1948, in Auburn to Paul Beuchel Jr. and Wilma (Culbertson) Beuchel.

She married Woodrow Coombs Jr. in October of 2004 in North Carolina, and he preceded her in death in February of 2006.

Surviving are her father, Paul Beuchel Jr., of Fishers; a son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Krista Black of Fort Wayne; two daughters and a son-in-law, Tracy and Ted Heinze of Fishers and Wendy Boylan and Anastacio Zavala of Auburn; two grandsons, Dominic Zavala and Xander J. Black; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Sandy and Roger Terry of Garrett and Joann and Joe Creager of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her mother.

Services will be Friday at 4 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Max Hopkins

ST. JOE — Max Hopkins, 71, of St. Joe died Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, at the Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Hospital in Indianapolis.

He worked in the quality control department for Universal Tool in Butler for over 34 years, retiring in 1997.

Mr. Hopkins served in the chemical corps in the U.S. Army.

He was born Oct. 4, 1937, in Sneedville, Tenn., to Morgan and Ruth (Collins) Hopkins. They preceded him in death.

He married Bonnie Carper on Jan. 14, 1973, in Churubusco, and she survives in St. Joe.

Also surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Melena and Homer Zartman of Lake City, Fla., Melissa Hopkins of Kaufman, Texas, Melinda and David Cannady of Butler and Jennifer Poper of Butler; four stepdaughters and their spouses, Rollene Hewitt of Auburn, Karlene Wilson of Fort Wayne, Brenda and Greg West of St. Joe and Roxanne and Earl Goldsmith of St. Joe; one stepson and his spouse, Steve and Vickie Hewitt of Orlando, Fla.; three brothers, Raymond Hopkins, Mitchel Hopkins and Jimmy Hopkins, all of Butler; two sisters, Peggy Kuhn of Hamilton and Betty Parker of Waterloo; 16 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one granddaughter, four brothers and one sister.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Brian Wilcox officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Calling will be Friday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Robert Shellenbarger

NEW PALESTINE — Robert L. Shellenbarger, 89, of New Palestine and formerly of Auburn, died Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, at the Golden Living Center Brandywine in Greenfield.

Mr. Shellenbarger worked as an inspector at Warner Gear in Auburn and retired after 30 years of service.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II from April of 1941 through October of 1945. He was a member of the Indian Village Church of God and was also a volunteer for the church's food bank.

He was born Feb. 27, 1919, in Huntington to Olin and Edna (Weeks) Shellenbarger.

He married Annabell Lung on Aug. 11, 1945, in Butler, and she died Sept. 14, 2003.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Max and Marianne Shellenbarger of Jamestown, Pa.; one daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Jerry Sprouse of New Palestine; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one son, Rex Shellenbarger on Nov. 19, 1977; three brothers, Charles Shellenbarger, Floyd Shellenbarger and Hubert Shellenbarger; and one sister, Monet Lavine.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dale Williams officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, rural Garrett. Military graveside services will be conducted by the Auburn American Legion Post 97.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Indian Village Church of God Food Bank.

Violet Mahnesmith

SOUTH BEND — Violet Marian Mahnesmith, 85, of South Bend passed away at 12:40 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, in Rivercrest Specialty Hospital, Mishawaka.

During World War II, Violet worked for the Department of the Navy in Norfolk, Va. In the following years, she worked when needed for her children's college. Her final position was assisting her daughter, Carolyn, in establishing her optometric practice in Bremen. Here she used her secretarial and bookkeeping abilities in addition to learning optometric skills. She loved her family and enjoyed cooking and baking for them. She also had a lifelong love of reading, crocheting, gardening, bird watching and playing the piano. Mrs. Mahnesmith loved listening to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren practice their musical instruments and singing. She enjoyed fishing and swimming and taking the best care of the love of her life, her husband of 64 years, Carmen. She was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church, South Bend.

She was born Oct. 19, 1923, in Kimmell to the late Claude and Luella (Thatcher) Noe.

On June 26, 1944, in Albion she married Carmen D. Mahnesmith, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Marilyn Mahnesmith-Johnson and Dr. Thomas Johnson of Auburn, and Dr. Carolyn and Dan Balog of South Bend; a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Randolph C. and Kathy Mahnesmith of Waynesboro, Va.; five grandchildren and spouses, Gregory and Dr. April Johnson, JD, of Avon, Randolph and Lia Johnson of Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Staci-Marie and David Norman of South Bend, Dr. Natali Marian Balog and Mark Wenkus of South Bend and Ethan Randolph Mahnesmith of Washington, D.C.; four great-grandchildren, Samantha Violet Johnson, Riley David Norman, Calla-Marie Norman and Amelia Marian Wenkus; four sisters and a brother-in-law, Alice Deetz of Helmer, Margaret Leslie of Ligonier, Dorothy Wisniewski of Dowagiac, Mich., and Sharon and John "Ray" Chenoweth of Mishawaka; and a brother, Robert Noe of Ligonier.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Matthew Martin Mahnesmith, a sister, Claudine Bolin, and three brothers, Norman, Ray and Roger Noe.

Services will be Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Palmer Funeral Home-Guisinger Chapel, 3718 S. Michigan St., South Bend. Burial will follow in Sweet Cemetery, Albion.

Calling will be Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First Presbyterian Church, 333 W. Colfax Ave., South Bend, IN 46601.

Condolences may be left at palmerfuneralhomes.com.

Benjamin Blair

LAKE JAMES — Benjamin Joseph Blair, 26, of Angola and formerly of Auburn, died Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Blair

He died from injuries sustained in a car accident on July 25, 1998. From the time of the accident until his time of death he remained comatose. During this time he resided with his parents, who cared for him.

He was born Aug. 1, 1982, in Fort Wayne to Terry and Karen (Brown) Blair. They survive at Lake James.

He was a member of the DeKalb High School soccer team and ski club during his freshman and sophomore years. He was an avid skateboarder, snowboarder, fisherman and golfer. He also loved music and concerts and played the bass guitar.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Heather Blair-Lewis and Adam Lewis of Auburn; three nieces, Raven, Rhiannon and Rowan Blair-Lewis, all of Auburn; a paternal grandmother, Betty Blair of Quincy, Mich.; and maternal grandparents, William and Joyce Brown of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, James Blair.

A memorial service will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Calling will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County All-Star Soccer Academy.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
December 19 2008

Cynthia Compton

AUBURN — Cynthia Ann Compton, 55, of Auburn and formerly of Garrett died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, at 10:50 a.m. in her residence.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Mount Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh with Pastor Willie Collins and Mark Gayheart officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery at Garrett.

Calling will be all day today at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Stroh, where an evening service will be held at 6 p.m.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Loretta Coney

LAGRANGE — Loretta M. Coney, 88, of LaGrange died Thursday at Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange.

Mrs. Coney had lived her lifetime in LaGrange County and retired from Sealed Power Corp. in LaGrange after 23 years. She was a member of the St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church of Hudson and its Rosary Sodality and was a former 4-H Leader.

Mrs. Coney

She was born March 28, 1920, in Mancelona, Mich., to Verne and Josephine (Wisniewski) Rumsey.

On Nov. 23, 1940, in Coldwater, Mich., she married Orval H. Coney. He preceded her in death on March 11, 1981.

Surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Don Curtis and Connie and Ron Burtch, all of Wolcottville, Brenda and Paul Trowbridge of Westfield and Marsha and Mark Shumaker of LaGrange; a son and two daughters-in-law, Bruce and Nor Coney of Butler and Rebecca Coney of LaGrange; 15 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Cleo Carter of Bronson, Mich.

Also preceding her in death were her parents; a son, Larry Coney, on April 1, 2005; a sister; and three brothers.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange with the Rev. Mark Weaver officiating. Burial will be in Brushy Chapel Cemetery, LaGrange.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial masses may be given to the church.

Condolences may be left for the family at fruripmay-funeralhome.com.

Ormi Kohn

WOLCOTTVILLE — Ormi A. Kohn, 94, of Wolcottville died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at 5:33 p.m.

Services will be today at 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett. Burial will be in the Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett with the Rev. David Mix officiating.

Calling will be at the funeral home today from 11 a.m. until the time of service.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Soup Kitchen in Garrett.

Condolences may be left at thomasfuneralhome.org.

Maxine Brechbill

AUBURN — Maxine L. Brechbill, 60, of Auburn died Thursday at 2:10 p.m. at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Brechbill was born Feb. 28, 1948, in Bluffton. She graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette with an associate degree in nursing. She married Philip R. Brechbill on June 8, 1968, in West Lafayette,.

She was a nurse for 25 years, having worked most recently at the Garrett Clinic, Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett and DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, Tri Kappa Sorority and the Model Extension Homemakers and served as a 4-H leader.

Surviving are her husband, Philip "Phil" R. Brechbill of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Beth and Matt Bechdol of Auburn and Sarah Brechbill of Auburn; a granddaughter, Grace Bechdol of Auburn; and a sister, Carol Gravit of Avilla.

There will be no services at this time, and the family requests that memorial contributions be given to the Huntington Disease Society of America-Indiana Chapter, P.O. Box 621, Beech Grove, IN 46107.

To send a condolence or sign an online register book, visit thomasfuneral-home.org.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
December 21 2008

Mighty Placencia a hard worker

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT -- Dec. 12 marked the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe — a day that held special meaning to Maria Placencia.

She died Nov. 12 at the age of 86 in Garrett.

"Grandma Placencia had a special devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her faith was a testament to her family," according to Tonya Hoeffel, the fourth of Placencia's 98 grandchildren. "Our Lady's message of love and compassion and her universal promise of help and protection to all mankind were special to grandma."

"She treasured the Lady of Guadalupe," agreed Emma Placencia, the eldest of Maria's 13 children, 11 of whom survive. "It was almost like how you praise the Lord. The Mexicans have that tradition."

Maria was born near Austin, Texas, one of 10 children. The daughter of Mexican immigrants, she spoke only Spanish as a young girl. Maria met her future husband, Juan, at a dance. When the couple moved to Indiana, she could not speak English.

"She was proud of her Mexican heritage," according to Emma. "Mother learned English when (brother) John and I went to school at York Center School," a country school near Albion.

After school was out in the spring, Maria and the older children worked in the farm fields near Albion and Rome City. They would clear the rows, clean vegetables, top onions and harvest mint — whatever work there was to do.

"It was early morning to late afternoon. It was hard work," Emma said. "Mother would always tell stories. Sometimes the sun would be so hot, and we would be tired. She would tell us stories, and that day would go faster."

Maria worked hard to make due for her family. She sewed all of Emma's dresses for school. One flowered dress was made from cloth flour sacks her mother sewed together.

"It had pink and white posies on it … and she starched it all up. I remember that dress!" Emma said.

Maria later worked for Garrett Flexible Products, then sewed Barbie doll clothes, work and kitchen aprons and quilts to make extra money.

"Mother worked so hard all her life — that's what she did," said Emma. "She was last one to sit at the table when we ate. Mom wanted to make sure we all got fed."

The smell of Pine Sol cleaner drifted to the children's rooms at night.

"She would work as we slept. When we got up the house would be all nice and clean. She never complained," Emma said.

SUE CARPENTER

Maria Placencia, seated, watches a traditional scarf dance during a Latino Festival in Garrett's Eastside Park in 2007. She is shown with daughters Catherine and Emma Placencia.

Maria also learned to be thrifty.

"She was big for going to garage sales," said daughter Sue Hardenbrook of Garrett. "She always had great finds. Mom never had a lot of money to buy gifts at Christmas, to buy for everybody. She always found something."

More than 20 years ago, Maria gave Sue's husband, Joe, a filet knife. "He has retired it as a keepsake," she said.

Although small in stature, Maria Placencia was able to keep her kids in tow.

"She never laid a hand on us, but she was firm," said Emma. "She was small but mighty. She was always real kind — she had a lot of patience."

Maria worried when her boys joined a local boxing club.

"Mom didn't care for her sons to be boxers," said Emma. "She went once (to watch them fight) and had to leave. She didn't want them hurt."

Nor did Maria want her sons to ride motorcycles, a situation she couldn't control with her out-of-state children. But when her son, Ed, of Garrett said he wanted one, she put her foot down.

"Not as long as I'm alive," could he have a motorcycle, she told him.

Now 63, Ed purchased a Harley-Davidson last year and parked it in the garage he shared with his mother. Maria had been a nursing home for a few months, but visited the home for a family gathering.

"Ed had (the motorcycle) all covered up — hiding it from his mother!" Sue Hardenbrook said.

Maria recuperated from open-heart surgery with the Hardenbrooks, during which time she shared many childhood stories with her daughter.

"She spent a lot of time with us, and we got to know more about her," said Sue Hardenbrook. "She was always a joy.

"Mom became a big Cubs fan. Even though they broke her heart. Derrek Lee was a favorite."

When Sue's son, Joe, was about 4 years old, Maria bought him "a twig of a tree" at a garage sale.

"It cost a quarter, maybe 50 cents. Mom told Joey, 'We're going to plant it in a special place. This is your tree. One of these days we are going to sit under the tree and drink iced tea. It's going to grow and be big and strong,'" Sue said.

Twenty-five years later, that maple tree now towers over the garage behind Maria's home on the edge of Garrett.

Maria often prayed to the Lord for strength to see her children grow, just like the tree, and be on their way.

"I am ready to go. The Lord gave me that," Maria recently told her daughter, Emma, of the prayer request.

During the final days of her life, Maria was taken to the hospital emergency room. Her son, Arnie, came in.

"She took his hand and asked him to do a favor for her," said Emma. "She asked him to promise that he will keep the family together and see each other," knowing it might be difficult with so many family members.

"Arnie told her, 'I will,'" Emma said.

THE EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
December 22 2008

Marjorie DeVaux

FORT WAYNE — Marjorie E. (Snyder) DeVaux, 87, of Fort Wayne, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, at her residence.

Mrs. DeVaux

She was born in Allen County, and was a homemaker and piano instructor for many years.

She was a member of the former Circle Center Extension Homemaker's Club and a member of Forest Park United Methodist Church, Rebecca Circle of Forest Park Church, Church Women United, executive committee of the church, officer in the St. Joe Township Farm Bureau and a member of the Historical Automobile Association, Fort Wayne Chapter.

She was a graduate of Harlan High School class of 1939.

She enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald H. and Glenda DeVaux, Harlan; and two daughters and sons-in-law, Charlene J. and Craig Baumgardner, and Sharon M. and James E. German, all of Auburn.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Forest Park United Methodist Church, 2100 Kentucky Ave., Fort Wayne, with the Rev. Brenda A. Ginder officiating with calling one hour prior.

Calling will also be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. today at D.O. MComb & Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne.

Burial will be in Bowers Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Forest Park United Methodist Church, 2100 Kentucky Ave., Fort Wayne.

Michael Metzger

AUBURN — Michael D. "Mighty Mike" Metzger, 63, of Auburn died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Metzger was a disk jockey and hosted the Trading Post and Gospel Hour for WIFF Radio in Auburn. He had also worked in auto finance for Bob Ellison Ford in Angola. He then began working in property management in 1988 in Chino, Calif., and retired in 2007 before moving back to Auburn.

He was a U.S. Army veteran serving his country during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Metzger was a member of the Moose Lodge, the Elks Club, and the American Legion Post 97, all of Auburn.

He was born on Aug. 8, 1945, in Wabash to Marshall and Irene (Ulrey) Metzger. He married Tina M. Wiler on July 12, 1981, in Hamilton. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Greg Metzger of Las Vegas, Nev., and Tyler Tharpe of Indianapolis; a daughter, Kelly Tharpe-Rowe of Auburn; a brother, Norman Eugene Metzger of Pierceton; and five grandchildren, Kyle Rowe, Taylor Rowe, Emily Rowe, Jake Tharpe and Becca Metzger.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be Sunday at 4 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Mike Albaugh officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. Military services will be conducted by the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2–4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Joy Wright

HUDSON — Joy Elaine Wright, 52, of Hudson died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She worked at Trin Inc. in Ashley.

She was a member of Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA).

She was born May 22, 1956, in Auburn to Alvin Ray and Wauneita (Flowers) Patee. Her father is deceased and her mother survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are her life partner, Dale Priko of Hudson; a daughter, Michelle Dumont of Garrett; a son Aaron Wright of Westville; seven grandchildren; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Teresa and Dennis Melchi of Butler and Helen and John Zimmerman of Auburn; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Richard Patee of Fort Wayne and Allen and Lori Patee of Auburn.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Angela Wright.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Calling will be from noon to 3 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Following cremation, she will be buried beside her daughter in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR
December 27 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Roy Winkler

WATERLOO — Roy L. Winkler, 55, of Waterloo died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be Sunday at 4 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Mike Hamm officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

THE EVENING STAR
December 28 2008 Auburn, Indiana

Nosek took inn to new heights

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — When Peter Nosek arrived at the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park in 1995, he brought with him the knowledge of hotel and inn management from the "civilian" world to the state park system.

Nosek, who was general manager of the inn for 13 years, died Nov. 24 in Angola. He was 50.

Diane Morey, who runs the sales department at the inn, was in her position two weeks before Nosek died. She said Nosek's experience running hotels outside the state park system helped him to bring new life to the inn.

"He added a lot of knowledge into the Department of Natural Resources System (the DNR runs the state park inns) as to how real hotels work," Morey said. "I just think he was really instrumental in getting DNR inns and concessions to run like a business."

Pokagon State Park interpreter Fred Wooley has been at the park for more than 20 years, including all of Nosek's tenure there. He said Nosek's knowledge of the "real world" of hotels certainly helped to strengthen the inn, making it one of the jewels of the state park system.

"He really stands out," Wooley said. "He was a real professional. He took customer service to a whole new level."

Wooley said one of the things Nosek really tried to instill in the park's employees was a sense of the value of the park itself.

"He really understood how important the 1,200 acres of the state park were to the hotel," Wooley explained. "He understood that it wasn't the same as just another hotel on the outskirts of Fort Wayne, or a hotel near an airport."

As part of that effort, Nosek instituted a program where all inn employees would take a tour, guided by Wooley, of the entire park, to get a sense of where some of the main attractions were and some of the history.

"His feeling was that everybody who worked at the Potawatomi Inn should be know something about the park. If a person was eating and asked their busboy something about the park, he wanted them to be able to answer. He did it so everybody could know something about the park. That was important to him," said Wooley.

Morey said that just as important, if not more so, to Nosek was working as a mentor to inn personnel.

"He was a great boss," Morey said. "He would let you decide what course of action you wanted to take instead of issuing an order or a directive. And he stood behind you." Morey said Nosek also understood that the Potawatomi Inn was in a unique position and had unique opportunities among all of the state park inns, because it had the largest conference center capacity.

"He was an excellent mentor," Morey said. "I'd never worked in the hotel business before I came here. He walked the babe through the woods."

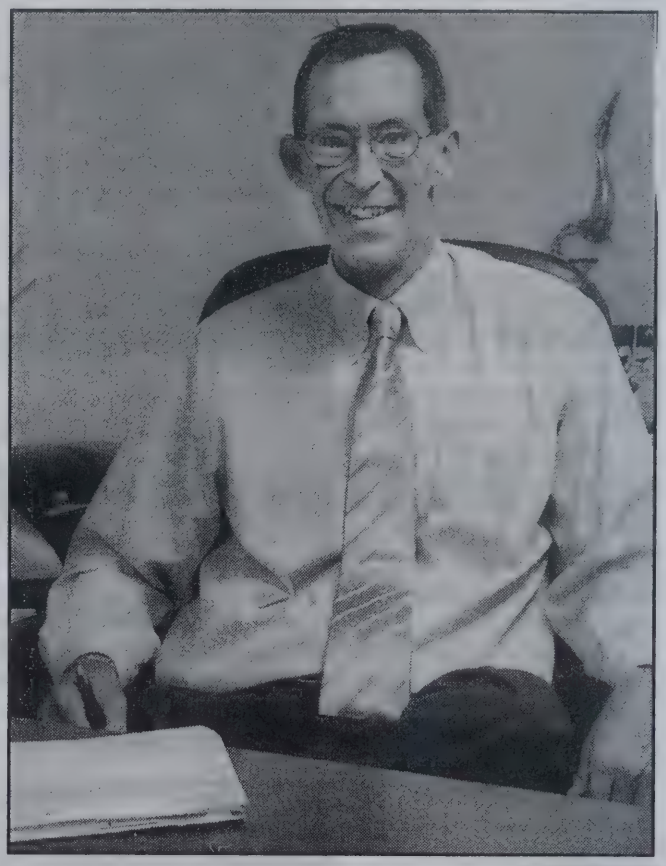


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Peter Nosek worked for 13 years as general manager of the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park on Lake James. During that time, he mentored staff and helped to make the inn a leader in the state park system.

Nosek's longtime companion, June Julien, echoed that sentiment.

"Pete always put people and their feelings first," Julien said.

That effort extended beyond just the inn. Morey served as an associate professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne's dining and hospitality program and served on state and Fort Wayne-area hotel and hospitality boards. He received the IPFW hospitarian of the year award for all of his efforts in 2003.

Nosek enjoyed his work and also treasured his daughter, Hannah. He shared with her his love of nature, and introduced her to what the Steuben County lakes country had to offer.

Walter Wood

FORT WAYNE — Walter Eugene Wood, 72, of Fort Wayne, died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at Life Care Center.

Mr. Wood

He was a 1954 graduate of Garrett High School. His service to the armed forces was in the National Guard. He was employed at Holsum Bakery for eight years and then went on to graduate from ITT Technical Institute. He retired from D & L Communications-Mobex after 12 ½ years of service.

He was a member of the DeKalb County Model Airplane Club in Auburn and the Fort Wayne Amateur Radio Club. He didn't know a stranger and was loved by all.

He was born Oct. 9, 1936, in Fort Wayne, to Walter A. and Genevia (Kintz/Crary) Wood.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Carol O'Donnell of Riviera, Texas, Cheryl Hanley of Fort Wayne and Julie and Marvin Skelly of Ashley; one son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Lisa Wood of Leslie, Mich; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Joan and Martin Fahlsing of Fort Wayne, Judy King of Albion and Diana and Jerry Haugk of Garrett; one brother and sister-in-law, Terry and Sandy Wood of Garrett; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Danny Wood.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Valarie Kline officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, rural Corunna.

Calling will be at the funeral home today from 6 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday one hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the Christopher Reeve Foundation or Life Care Center of Fort Wayne.

Olin Worthington

FREMONT — Olin E. Worthington, 88, of Fort Myers, Fla., and formerly of Angola, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008, in New Haven. Mr. Worthington had retired as a quality inspector at Zollner Corp.

Mr. Worthington

He was a past president of the Ashley Town Board.

He was a member of Moose and Elks lodges.

He was a past treasurer of the Martinique Association of Fort Myers, Fla.

He was born July 29, 1920, in Fremont to Chester Earl and Eula Belle (Grim) Worthington.

He married Irene Groshon on Feb. 12, 1949, and she survives in Fort Myers.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Doug and Marsha Worthington of Fort Wayne and Dave and Patty Worthington of Auburn; grandchildren and their spouses, Amy and Brad Saleik, Joel and Kristy Worthington, Jonathan and Jessica Worthington, Jamie and Josh Beck and Josh Worthington; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Wilma Butler and Viva Jean Ransbottom; and two brothers, Russell and Max Worthington.

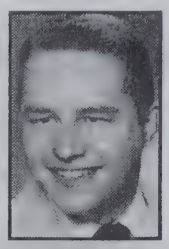
A memorial service will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. at Beams Funeral Home, Fremont. Burial will be in the Fremont Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814 or Turnstone Center for Disabled Children & Adults Inc., 3320 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Condolences may be sent at beamsfuneralhome.com.

Richard Mondhank

FORT WAYNE — Richard W. Mondhank, 80, of Fort Wayne passed away Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at his home.


Mr. Mondhank

Mr. Mondhank was employed at Coverall Rentals as a Credit Manager for 22½ years, retiring in 1987. He also was a cashier at Angola State Bank for several years. He was a World War II Army veteran in the 7th Cavalry and a member of Blackhawk Ministries.

Born in Butler, he was the son of Frederick and Mozelle (Long) Mondhank.

Survivors include wife Sally (Bobilya) Mondhank of Fort Wayne; a cousin and spouse, Ebbie and Karl Kolter of Decatur; three sisters-in-law, Roselyn Korn, Nancy Doehrmann and Mary Lou Johnson; a brother-in-law, Donald Bobilya; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his step-parents, Chester and Martha Tuttle.

Services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the D.O. McComb & Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Keith Moore officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Blackhawk Ministries General Fund or Parkview Hospice.

Betty Hite

AUBURN — Betty P. Hite, 84, died Tuesday, December 30, 2008, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn, Ind.

Born in Bluffton, Ind., she was the owner and operator of Towers Beauty Salon for 20 years, retiring in 1981.

Mrs. Hite

She was a member of First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, Wesleyan Sunday School, United Methodist Women and volunteered weekly for the church newsletter.

She enjoyed sewing, gardening, shopping and loved spending time with her family and her family dogs.

She was an avid traveler to all 50 states, Canada and Mexico.

Survivors include her children, Michael E. (Crystal) Hite of St. Joe, Ind., Cheryl L. Hite Bolman of Lake of the Woods, Ind., Patrick A. (Janice) Hite of Allen, Texas; grandchildren, Constance (William) Leege of Gansevoort, N.Y., Kevin (Brian Misencik) Hite of Columbus, Ohio, Carolyn (Arnold) Rorick of Woodburn, Ind., Monica (Ian Broff) Hite of Pleasant Hill, Calif.,, Ryan (Beth) Hite of Plano, Texas, and Colleen Hite of Allen, Texas; four great-grandchildren; sisters, Phyllis (Harold) Ellett of Bellville, Ill., Kay Simpson of Fort Wayne and Judy Padgett of Montpelier, Ind.; a brother-in-law, Jack Conley of Fort Wayne, Ind; numerous nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, John Burl Hite in 2005; her parents, Wilsie and Edith Herring; and sisters, Norma Jean Herring and Helen Conley.

Service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, 300 E. Wayne St.. with Pastor Greg Enstrom officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., and one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials to United Methodist Women or Alzheimer's Association.

Wladimir Tschebykin

AUBURN — Wladimir "Walter" Tschebykin, 78, of Auburn died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church, 3535 Crescent Ave., with Father David Meinzen officiating. Prayers will be one hour prior to services. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to St. Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church, 3535 Crescent Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Ralph Witmer

LEO — Ralph W. Witmer, 89, died Monday evening, Dec. 29, 2008, in his home on his farm in Leo surrounded by his family.

Mr. Witmer was a lifetime farmer.

Mr. Witmer

He was a member of the County Line Church of God and has also attended the North Leo Mennonite Church for many years.

He was born in the same home he died in on Aug. 5, 1919, to Myron and Irene (Kruse) Witmer. He married Agnes Graber on Aug. 25, 1940, in the Leo Mennonite Church. She died Aug. 6, 1997.

Surviving are five daughters and four sons-in-law, Deloris Martin of Harlan, Lois and Sam Schwartz of New Haven, Donna and William Miller of Wayland, Iowa, Karen and Earl Jacquay of Leo and Janice and Lanny Kimes of Middlebury; 20 grandchildren; and 44 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Michael Lee Miller; and two sisters, Edith Witmer and Olive Kryder.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the County Line Church of God with the Rev. Mitchell Kruse and the Rev. Bob Herman officiating. Burial will be in Leo Cemetery, Leo.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the church and one hour prior to the service Saturday. Memorials are to County Line Church of God or Parkview Home Health and Hospice.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Curtis Mason

COLDWATER, Mich. — Curtis Dean Mason, 55, of Coldwater died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Mason

Mr. Mason was a farmer and the owner of Huycks Lake Campground in Kinderhook Township, Branch County, Mich.

He was a 1971 graduate of Coldwater High School.

He was born March 5, 1953, in Coldwater to Leo Herbert and Lula F. (Michael) Mason. He married Rita McBride on Oct. 7, 1972, in Waterloo. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Chad Curtis Mason, Brad Alan Mason and Kyle Dean Mason, all of Coldwater; three sisters, Kay Easterday of Coldwater, Judy Hantz of Montgomery, Mich., and Peggy Mason of Fremont; a brother and sister-in-law, Kim and Elizabeth Mason of Coldwater; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be at 11 a.m Monday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont with Pastor Mike Arnold officiating. Burial will be in Mundy Cemetery in Kinderhook Township, Coldwater.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Ervin Weaver

FORT WAYNE — Ervin L. "Pete" Weaver, 80, of Fort Wayne and formerly Garrett, died Monday, Dec. 29, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital surrounded by his family.

Mr. Weaver worked as a printer most of his life.

He was born Nov. 19, 1928, in Williamsport, Pa.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, of Fort Wayne; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Wayne "Bud" and Lori Weaver of Garrett and Ervin "Pete" Weaver Jr. of Indianapolis; two daughters and sons-in-law, Gloria and Henry Temple of Garrett and Shawn and Bryan Gumbert of Fort Wayne; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Ginny Weaver of South Whitley and Ollie and Doris Weaver of Placentia, Calif.; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Snyder; a daughter, Darlene; and a son, Gary.

Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children or SPCA of Fort Wayne.

Online condolences may be sent to www.covingtonmemorial.com.

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